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No. 58

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 14, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COHEN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Joseph T. Holcomb, Director of Pilgrimages, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

All powerful and merciful God, we praise You and give You thanks for all Your gracious gifts, most especially the gift of Your infinite love. It is Your gift of love that inspires and drives us to lives of committed service, lives that are lived in truth, in justice and for the good of all people.

May we always avail ourselves to Your love so that we may better serve those we represent in this the United States House of Representatives.

May our deliberations, discussions and actions always reflect the love you have bestowed upon us that we might bring about understanding, tolerance, and harmony in our great Nation and peace for the entire world. We pray this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CRIME—VICTIMS—JUSTICE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the suffering of a quiet group of remarkable individuals is often overlooked by our culture. Victims of crime sometimes spend the rest of their lives trying to cope with being someone else's prey.

These people are a cross section of America and include all races, ages, religions, and they come from all economic backgrounds. You see, violent crime plays no favorites and does not discriminate.

We, as neighbors, should be aware of and concerned about these victims. That is why we honor and remember them during this National Crime Victims Rights Week. Since 1981, each year in April, communities throughout these vast great plains have celebrated National Crime Victims Rights Week to promote victims' rights and to recognize victims, as well as those who advocate on their behalf.

We can do victims justice by raising awareness of their plight and demanding that justice prevail in their lives, many of whom spend quiet lives of desperation. They are the forgotten participants in the judicial system, and we will forget them no more.

And that's just the way it is.

NO RESULTS FROM EMPTY PROMISES OF MAJORITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, when the majority party was campaigning to take control of this House, they promised a lot of change, and they made a lot of promises about what they were going to do about gas prices and energy costs and everything else in this country.

However, what has that promised change brought us? It has brought us a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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43 percent increase in gasoline prices. The price of groceries is going up rapidly.

We have seen no results from these empty promises. This is a do-nothing Congress. They accused the Republicans of being a do-nothing Congress.

This is a do-something Congress involved with a do-nothing because what they have done has been detrimental to our country. They have caused the price of gas to go up 43 percent, the price of groceries to go up.

We need a real energy policy, not a lot of empty promises. I call on the majority to let us see some results from those empty promises.

AMERICA IS NOT AS SECURE TODAY

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is not as secure today as it was just several weeks ago.

The leadership in the House has not allowed the Protect America Act to come to the floor, and, thus, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has expired.

We cannot monitor what Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan or Pakistan are talking about or his phone calls to Iran or any other place in this world. FISA only monitors phone calls from one foreign entity to another.

The leadership seems more bent on protecting lawsuits than they are in protecting America. I call upon the leadership to let us vote on the Protect America Act so that we can make America secure again.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 14, 2008, at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House, S. 793.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that I will relinquish my seat on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce effective 5:00 p.m. EST, April 9, 2008.

It has been my honor to serve for the past twelve years as a member of the Committee and for the past 2 years as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. I consider it a singular privilege to have worked with Chairman John Dingell, a true lion of the Congress, and on the important work of the Committee.

While I have fully complied with both the letter and spirit of the ethics rules as well as engaged in appropriate recusals, I am concerned that this issue is a distraction from the critical work of the Committee on climate change, energy independence and environmental protection. Unfortunately, it appears that this issue has become fodder for cynical partisan attacks.

I would also like to thank you for all of the support you have given me throughout my career.

Sincerely,

ALBERT R. WYNN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL OBJECTORS FOR PRIVATE CALENDAR FOR 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the majority and minority leaderships, the Chair announces that the official objectors for the Private Calendar for the 110th Congress are as follows:

For the majority:
Mr. BOUCHER, Virginia
Mr. SCHIFF, California
Mr. GRIJALVA, Arizona
For the minority:
Mr. KING, Iowa
Mr. FORBES, Virginia
Mr. SMITH, Texas

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 886) expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 886

Whereas on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a man entered the New Life Church property with the intent to cause harm to members and guests of the church;

Whereas the attacker shot 5 bystanders at the New Life Church, killing 2 of them and injuring 3 others;

Whereas the shooting resulted in the tragic loss of Stephanie Works, 18, and Rachel Works, 16, who lost their lives from wounds sustained from shots fired by the attacker;

Whereas the attacker wounded David Works, who was still hospitalized days after the shootings, Judy Purcell, and Larry Bourbonnais;

Whereas Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, heroically rushed into harm's way and used her own gun to stop the shooter, thereby saving the lives of several other bystanders;

Whereas the quick response of private security, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs SWAT Team, Federal authorities, and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community;

Whereas this event occurred only hours after another tragic and fatal shooting, which occurred at the Youth With A Mission facility, located in Arvada, Colorado;

Whereas the shooting at Youth With A Mission resulted in the death of Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24;

Whereas the attacker seriously wounded Dan Griebenow and Charlie Blanch; and

Whereas local first responders in the City of Arvada and in Jefferson County, Colorado, responded quickly and professionally, thereby saving wounded individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 886, as amended, which expresses sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado.

House Resolution 886 was introduced by Representative DOUG LAMBORN from the State of Colorado on December 18,

2007, and has the support and cosponsorship of over 50 Members of Congress.

The measure was considered by the Oversight panel on March 13, 2008, and was passed by voice vote after having been amended for technical purposes.

It was only a few short months ago when our country was riveted by the violent rampage of one individual that left five people seriously wounded while killing four others. It was a solemn Sunday in December, December 9, to be exact, when the lives of Judy Purcell, Larry Bourbannais, Tiffany Johnson, Philip Crouse, Dan Griebenow, Charlie Blanch and Stephanie, David, and Rachel Works would be forever changed by a series of tragic events that gripped central Colorado but touched our entire country.

Many of the persons impacted by the shooting rampage of a disturbed man were young people who had already chosen honorable and noble paths of service and faith. In remembering that dreadful day, I must also mention the heroic actions of Jeanne Assam, a volunteer security guard, whose swift response led to the wounding and killing of the assailant. We thank her for her dutiful service that helped prevent an already disastrous event from escalating further.

Passage of this measure will allow our body an opportunity to officially express our heartfelt condolences, prayers and sympathies to the families and victims of the tragic acts of violence that took place in Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado, last year.

Therefore I urge adoption of House Resolution 886, as amended, and reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of this resolution recognizing the tragedy that befell the communities of Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to take a moment to reflect on the impact one man's senseless acts of violence can have on a community, a State and a Nation. On an early Sunday morning, a man entered the New Life Church and proceeded to open fire. Tragically, the lives of Tiffany Johnson and Philip Crouse were taken. They were both staff members of the Youth With A Mission Center, which educates individuals to be evangelical missionaries overseas. Two other staff members were seriously injured as well, Dan Griebenow and Charlie Blanch.

This a place of peace where dedicated young men and women are educated to be Christian missionaries. What happened there on that cold Sunday morning was a true travesty for those victims and the community that surrounds them.

Later that afternoon at approximately 1 p.m., the same individual who opened fire at the Youth With A Mission facility entered the grounds of the

New Life Christian Church and fatally shot two teenagers, Stephanie and Rachel Works. The shooter also shot and seriously injured their father, David Works, in the parking lot before he proceeded into the church. Two others, Judy Purcell and Larry Bourbannais, were also injured that day. Fortunately for the communities of Colorado Springs and Arvada, Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, performed heroically that afternoon and engaged the shooter when he entered the church's east entrance.

Jeanne Assam was a former Minneapolis police officer and was licensed to carry a firearm. She used her education and performed admirably to protect not only those inside the church, but those in the surrounding area as well. She was able to slow the gunman down, which ultimately led to the gunman taking his own life.

One shudders to think of the terror that could have ensued had the shooter been able to continue unabated. The shooter was later identified as 24-year-old Matthew Murray. There is only one word that can describe the acts of Jeanne Assam on that day—heroic.

The quick response by the security team at New Life Christian Church, who quickly moved to step up security after hearing the news of the initial shooting in Arvada also deserves praise. In addition, we must take a moment to thank the first responders on that day. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs SWAT team, Federal authorities, and medical professionals all played a role in quelling what could have been an even larger massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important remembrance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and also the gentlewoman for her kind remarks concerning this day of tragedy in Colorado. We have had a couple of those, Columbine, 9 years ago this week, as well as this tragedy that occurred on December 9.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and regret that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence that occurred on December 9 at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs and on the Faith Bible Chapel campus in Arvada, Colorado, with this resolution.

The senseless acts of violence partially took place in my district at the Youth With A Mission, YWAM, in the heart of Jefferson County in a community still reeling from the tragic events of Columbine several years ago.

The Faith Bible Chapel campus is about a block from where my father-in-law lives. It is a place I drive by almost

every weekend when I am home. And it is a place in the late hours of December 8 and the early hours of December 9, a reverse 911 call had to go out to the entire neighborhood to advise them of the killings that had gone on so nearby.

All four young men and women lost their lives before the psychotic young gunman turned the gun on himself. This resolution seeks to honor the memory of these individuals: Tiffany Johnson, who was 26 years old; Philip Crouse, 24; Stephanie Works and Rachel Works who I believe were nieces of a friend of mine, John Works, who was a candidate several years ago for the 7th Congressional District of Colorado, which is the seat that I now hold.

This bill also seeks to recognize the survivors and the families victimized, and in particular, Dan Griebenow, Charlie Blanch, David Works, Judy Purcell, and Larry Bourbannais who were wounded during this senseless day of killing.

It is important to note that this resolution commends the heroism of the local first responders and law enforcement officials in the city of Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado Springs, and El Paso County who responded quickly and professionally.

Especially, Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, who courageously rushed into harm's way and used her own gun to stop the shooter, thereby saving the lives of several other bystanders.

We will never know what was going through the mind of Matthew Murray, the young man who killed these people and wounded several more. We don't know what possessed his mind to take these senseless acts, but we do know that the people who were killed here in this particular incident and the people who were wounded will always stay in our memory and will be honored by this resolution.

Our Nation can never adequately come to grips with senseless tragedies like these. Whether it is some kind of care for the perpetrator in this instance from his psychosis, or whether it is additional protections that we might give to our churches and our schools, there are many things that we can do, but it is just a shame that sometimes, we can't understand the demons that possess people and cause them to come up with acts of psychotic violence like we have seen here.

It is my hope that this bill sends a message to the victims of these tragic events that they will continue to remain in the thoughts of our Nation, and they will never be forgotten for the events that occurred on December 9. This bill represents one small step in the process of healing for our communities affected by this tragedy.

In closing, I wish to thank each of my colleagues in the Colorado delegation, and especially Representative DOUG LAMBORN, who represents the city of Colorado Springs. I want to thank each of the 51 co-sponsors who join me today in expressing sympathy

to the victims and families of the heartbreaking acts of violence in Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado, with this resolution, H. Res. 886. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 886.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate those who lost their lives in tragic act violence last year in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado. I truly appreciate the support and friendship from the Colorado delegation in supporting this resolution and offering our most sincere condolences to the victims and their families.

On December 9, 2007, a young man targeted two Christian organizations that resulted in the death of four young people, in addition to the shooter. Our hearts go out to the family of Stephanie Works, 18, and Rachel Works, 16, whose lives were tragically ended while at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs. Further loss of life was prevented by the heroic acts of Jeanne Assam, an armed volunteer security guard, whose heroic actions stopped the shooter from inflicting more devastation. Hours earlier another fatal shooting occurred at a Youth with a Mission Facility in Arvada, Colorado that resulted in the tragic loss of Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24.

The personal devastation inflicted on the families of these victims is unimaginable and has impacted our entire community. We offer this resolution to honor the memory of those who were lost, offer our condolences to the affected families, and recognize the courageous actions of Jeanne Assam in preventing this tragedy from harming more Coloradans. Our hearts go out to the families who still daily suffer from the atrocious attacks and we humbly offer our sympathy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 886, "Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado."

This important legislation will honor and memorialize those who were affected by the tragic events in Colorado Springs and Arvada. On that fateful day, a gunman took the lives of five people and wounded 5 more, subsequently taking his own life.

The shootings at New Life Church in Colorado Springs and the Youth With a Mission Center in Arvada on December 9, 2007, remind us once again that the wrath of violence can easily destroy the lives of a congregation gathered in a sanctified establishment. As we reflect on the lives that were spared, we duly note the actions of Jeanne Assam. Jeanne Assam, a former police officer and New Life Church member and security guard, is credited with halting the gunman's spree by shooting him. Though her gunfire did not kill the perpetrator, her act of courage and conviction allowed her to halt the gunman's spree, subsequently preventing the death of more people.

The carnage at the Colorado tragedy commands that we here in this body take a stand against senseless acts of violence whether here in our own country or elsewhere around the world. It is long past time for our national community to declare that injuries inflicted on any member of the community by another simply based on hate or hatred of differences pose a threat to the peace and security of the entire community. For that reason alone, such conduct must be condemned and punished

severely, if not prevented altogether. I hope that the incident in Colorado does not reflect a larger problem within our society; however, my optimism is guarded with the reality of an escalating amount of gun violence in schools, malls, and churches.

Neither the mind nor the heart can contemplate a cause that could lead a human being to inflict such injury and destruction on fellow human beings. We can never completely understand why these things happen; however, we must persevere through the melancholy. The loss of those lives and innocence is a tragedy which all Americans mourn. In the face of such overwhelming grief, I hope the families and friends of those affected can take comfort in the certain knowledge that unearned suffering is redemptive. My deepest sympathies are with the victims, their families, and everyone who is affected by this tragic situation. This devastation reaffirms why we, as public officials, must take steps to ensure that the United States is a safer environment where acts of violence based on hate are not tolerated. We cannot sufficiently articulate the feelings of sorrow that are universally felt. I extend my prayers and support to the bereaved families during this time of mourning.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in so doing, showing respect for the lives that were lost, sacrificed, and spared.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL GLANZMANN'S THROMBASTHENIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 994) expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 994

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia affects men, women, and children of all ages;

Whereas this disorder is very distressing to those who have it, causing great discomfort and severe emotional stress;

Whereas children with Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia are unable to participate in many normal childhood activities including most sports and are often subject to social discomfort because of their disorder;

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia includes a wide range of symptoms including life-threatening, uncontrollable bleeding and severe bruising;

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia is frequently misdiagnosed or undiagnosed by medical professionals;

Whereas currently there is no cure for Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia;

Whereas it is essential to educate the public on the symptoms, treatments, and constant efforts to cure Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia to insure early diagnosis and treatment of the condition;

Whereas Helen P. Smith established the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation in Augusta, Georgia, in 2001;

Whereas Helen P. Smith and the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation have worked tirelessly to promote awareness of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia and help fund research on the disorder; and

Whereas Congress should determine an appropriate day to designate as National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand for the consideration of H. Res. 994, as amended, which expresses support for the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

H. Res. 994 was introduced by Representative PAUL BROUN of the fine State of Georgia on February 25, 2008, and has the support and cosponsorship of 57 Members of Congress. The measure was considered by the Oversight panel on March 13, 2008, and was passed by voice vote at that time after being amended for technical purposes.

Mr. Speaker, while many people may not be aware of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, which is an extremely rare disorder of the blood where the platelets lack glycoprotein, a key element for blood to clot, therefore significantly prolonging bleeding time. While on average there are only 200 cases of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia reported every year, the disease and finding a cure for it still requires our attention, resources and support.

March 1, 2008, marked the inaugural commemoration of the National

Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. The day was celebrated with events, receptions and our colleagues in the Senate Chamber passed an identical resolution honoring and recognizing the importance of National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

I think it is important that we in this body help to expand research awareness of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, which is why I rise in support of H. Res. 994. Passage of this measure will help to raise the profile and the general public's understanding of this illness and the corresponding National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. I urge passage of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution urging the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. Discovered in Switzerland in 1918, Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, otherwise known as GT, is a rare and serious blood disorder that affects men, women, and children of all ages across the globe. The disease affects the ability of blood platelets to form, or clot, around the site of a broken blood vessel due to a deficiency of a specific protein on the surface of the platelet. Since the blood is unable to clot normally, those who suffer from GT are faced with uncontrollable, potentially life-threatening blood loss and severe bruising.

A very rare and little known hereditary disease, GT has severe emotional and physical effects on those who suffer from it. Children with GT often find themselves socially isolated as they are unable to participate in normal childhood activities such as sports or physically active play.

There is no cure for this disease, and because it is so rare, there is little information on the symptoms and treatments. It is important that we support valuable organizations such as the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation, founded by Helen P. Smith in 2001, in their effort to educate the public, promote awareness, and fund research of this serious disease.

□ 1430

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution that seeks to raise the awareness of this serious, emotionally damaging and potentially life-threatening disease.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a beautiful young lady by the name of Julia Smith and her family came to my office. Julia lives in

Augusta, Georgia and is a constituent of mine.

This 9-year-old young lady, when she was first born, was covered with bruises. Her parents, of course, were, needless to say, very concerned and they asked the doctor about these bruises. The parents were told that this was just from a result of a difficult delivery.

A short time thereafter, Julia had a little scratch on her face that resulted in bleeding that covered her whole face and, of course, her mom was frantic. The blood tests were normal.

The family took Julia to the Medical College of Georgia, my alma mater. I'm a medical doctor, and so I'm proud of the Medical College of Georgia of doing the testing that was required to bring about the diagnosis of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia in Julia.

Her mom, Helen, was, of course, very distraught and so she started researching, trying to find out about this very rare disease. The more she searched, the more she realized that there's very little information anywhere. And she started meeting other families all around the country, whose family members also suffered from GT.

With the help of a small grant from a private individual, Helen Smith founded the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation. And what she's doing is trying to find, certainly, the cure of this disease, but also searching to try to find ways of informing people who have this disease about the disease and help to comfort them. And so it's a research foundation that is extremely needed to try to prevent the disease symptoms which are uncontrollable bleeding, as well as very painful bruising. It's a life-threatening disease.

But Ms. Smith talked to me about this disease. And as a physician, as a Member of Congress, I realized that we really need to bring this disease to the forefront so that she can have some help. She's seeking for recognition. She's seeking for private grants and private funding of her foundation which is very much needed. And hopefully, this young lady, Julia Smith, can live a long and fruitful life, and we can find a cure to this disease. In fact, the researchers say that there's a possibility of finding a cure within a matter of just the next few years.

But without bringing public attention to the disease, Ms. Smith's going to continue to struggle to try to get the recognition that she so richly deserves for this very rare blood disorder.

So that's what this bill is all about. It's to promote the awareness of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia. March 1 has been chosen as the day to establish the National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. This day was chosen to coincide with the date of the fundraiser for the research foundation.

I want to thank Natalie Stroud of my office and my staff for her excellent work on this resolution.

And I urge my colleagues to vote with me on passage of H. Res. 994.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 994, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would urge passage of this legislation, and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5517) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5517

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I join Representative POE and his fellow colleagues from the Lone Star State of Texas in considering H.R. 5517, which renames the postal facility at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

As stated, the measure at hand was first introduced by Congressman TED POE on February 28, 2008 and is cosponsored by all members of the Texas congressional delegation. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where it was considered and passed by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 5517 is intended to remember the lives, service and legacy of hundreds of military men and women from the State of Texas who have served or lost their lives in service to our great country. By renaming this particular Humble, Texas post office, H.R. 5517 will set into motion the creation of a living tribute to the sacrifices made by so many of Texas' sons and daughters, who gave their lives in service and honor abroad in order to ensure our protection here at home, an honor befitting the thousands of military men and women past and present, from every State of the Union that have unselfishly given of themselves in service and in battle for America.

H.R. 5517 will help memorialize the memory of generations of Texas' servicemen and women for years to come by designating the 7231 FM 1960 Humble, Texas postal facility as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. POE).

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Appreciate the comments by both sides on this very important piece of legislation.

The Post Office that we wish to name today is in my congressional district, it's in Humble, Texas, and it's a part of Southeast Texas where a great number of people continue to volunteer to be in our United States military.

Texans have always, when called upon by their country to go into service, have met that call with overwhelming numbers. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world in a military uniform, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the State of Texas.

And it goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran by the name of William Barrett Travis came to Texas from the State of South Carolina. He was a young lawyer, 27. And he was passionate about liberty and freedom. And he found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was over 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. They were really

from all States in the United States, six foreign countries as well, many of them, Mr. Speaker, from the State of Tennessee.

And he, like those defenders of the Alamo, were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. And as we all know, all of those first veterans gave their lives in that word that we praise today, that word of freedom. He was the first veteran that I wish to mention. And I will continue to mention just a few more so we know the importance of naming buildings after these wonderful people who have gone before us.

Of course, in that same struggle, all Texas armies were led by another Tennessean by the name of Sam Houston. Sam Houston became the general of all Texas forces after the battle of the Alamo. He serves as the unique distinction of the only person in American history being governor of two different states, the governor of Tennessee and the governor of Texas.

But before he became governor of Texas he was president of the Republic of Texas. And because of the fact that on April 21, which we celebrate a week from today, in 1836, General Sam Houston, leading a ragtag army of volunteers, once again from all over the United States, several foreign countries, defeated the enemy, Santa Ana and his overwhelming army at the banks and the marshes of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. After that battle was over with Texas became a Republic and remained a free nation for over 9 years, and we owe much of that to General Sam, another veteran of Texas.

It's interesting to note that General Sam Houston's last words before he died, he mentioned to his wife 2 words, "Texas, Texas." And then he died as a great military veteran of our State of Texas.

In World War I, there was an individual by the name of Kenneth Myers that served. In 1889 he was born. He joined the Navy in 1917, and he served on the battleship *Oklahoma* in World War I. And after the "War to End All Wars" was over with, he went ahead and became an agricultural expert in the State of Texas. He lived to be 107 before he died and became the third oldest survivor of that "War to End All Wars," World War I.

In World War II there were many great Texans who served, but probably the most notable was a young individual who was a cotton farmer from Farmersville, Texas. Audie Murphy was too little and too small, they said, to join the Marine Corps, so he got into the United States Army, and he fought in the Army in World War II and he served 27 months in combat. He is the most decorated U.S. combat soldier in United States military history. He had received the Medal of Honor, of course the highest U.S. military award, along with 32 other medals from the United States, five medals from France and one from Belgium.

Audie Murphy symbolizes the great tradition of folks who joined the mili-

tary, another wonderful veteran from the State of Texas.

A little-known veteran from Texas was an individual by the name of Doris Miller. That was his name, although he was a male, and he didn't even want his friend calling him Dorrie because his name was Doris.

He found himself, on December 7 on the USS *West Virginia*. He was a cook. Because of his race he was not allowed to be in combat, but when that battleship was attacked, he found himself behind a 50 caliber machine gun and shot down two, maybe three Japanese planes on December 7, 1941. And he was honored later as becoming the first African American to receive the Navy cross because of his heroism on that fateful day, that day of infamy, December 7, 1941.

□ 1445

Doris Miller later died in combat, and he was from the City of Waco, Texas.

A friend of mine who recently died was a Pearl Harbor survivor by the name of Luke Trahan from Beaumont, Texas, served in the United States Navy, a wonderful person and was a symbol of everything that is good and right about the veterans from our great State.

And, of course, having been the son of one of those individuals of the Greatest Generation, my father, Virgil Poe, served in Europe during World War II. He didn't say anything about his service in the United States Army because he went when he was a teenager, and after 50 years, he finally started talking about his service there after he and my mother went to that place in France that we call Normandy, where over 9,000 Americans are buried. He, along with both of my uncles, James Hamilton and Charles Willis, all three teenagers, served in that great war, World War II.

Also serving in World War II was Oveta Culp Hobby. She was a lawyer, and although she was a lawyer, she found herself in Washington, D.C., and when the war broke out, she became the director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps which was later called and referred to as the Women's Army Corps. She has the distinction of being the highest ranking woman to serve in World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her contributions in the war effort, becoming the first woman in American history to receive such award.

We're proud of the fact that Admiral Chester Nimitz is from Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg, Mr. Speaker, is a landlocked place. It's a long way from water. It is in the central part of the Hill Country of Texas; but Admiral Nimitz ended up being in the United States Navy, and during World War II, he was the Commander in Chief of all Pacific naval forces for the United States and Allied forces where he served with distinction. Even a high school is named for him in my congressional district.

Sometimes we forget the fact that Dwight David Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas, in 1890; although he later moved to Kansas, and he served in World War II as a 5-star general in the Army, also being the first Allied commander in all of Europe, a great distinction for him.

In 1943, a young man was commissioned as a teenager in the United States Naval Reserves, and he was assigned to the United States Ship *San Jacinto*; and on this ship he was assigned to become a pilot for the TMB Avengers. And while piloting one such mission in Chi Chi Jima off the Japanese coast, this individual was shot down and rescued later by a submarine in the area. This individual flew 58 combat missions. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals and the USS *San Jacinto* was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. That individual, of course, was former President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, there were many others who have served in the history of the State of Texas, but 12 individuals were remarkable in that these individuals, 12 brothers, these Band of Brothers, from a little town of Dayton, Texas, named the Ripkowsky brothers, all served in World War II and Korea. They served in all branches of the service. They served all over the United States and in foreign countries in combat, and after the wars were over, all 12 of them had the unique history of returning home to Dayton, Texas, where all of them lived except one who moved six miles away to the small town of Liberty. A great family that has served our country and veterans in their own right.

During the Korean War, Joseph Rodriguez from El Paso was drafted into the United States Army, although he later made the Army his career. Colonel Rodriguez, during the Korean War, received the Medal of Honor from President Truman because he attacked a Communist foxhole and then went on to attack four more Communist foxholes destroying all five emplacements and saving the lives of several of his comrades.

We have the unique distinction in this House of having a lot of great people who have served in our military in all branches of the service, both on this side and the other side, in this House and in the Senate. But one of those individuals grew up in Dallas, Texas, and he served in the United States Air Force for 29 years. He was the director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School and flew with the Air Force Thunderbirds. He was a highly decorated fighter pilot who flew combat missions both in the Korean War and Vietnam, and in Korea he flew F-86s in 62 combat missions. In Vietnam, he flew F-4s.

And in 1966 while flying his 25th combat mission, our own SAM JOHNSON was shot down over North Vietnam. He was a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton

for 7 years, including 42 months in solitary confinement. During that time, he was repeatedly tortured.

He is a decorated war hero. He was awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards as well. We are honored to have him not only from the State of Texas but to serve in this House of Representatives as many other veterans do as well.

WORLD WAR II—DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY

Born September 7, 1908 in Louisiana.

With the outbreak of World War II, he volunteered for service, eventually becoming the Director of the Surgical Consultants' Division in the United States Army Surgeon General's Office.

His experience on the Surgeon General's staff taught him that more needed to be done for our veterans.

He recommended changes in staged management of war wounds.

He also created mobile army surgical hospitals or "MASH" units, which saved a countless number of American lives.

He also recommended medical follow-ups for veterans, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center System.

He's received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, and will soon receive the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

VIETNAM—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Accepted into Texas Air National Guard in May 1968 at the height of ongoing Vietnam war.

After training, assigned to duty in Houston, flying Convair F-102s out of Ellington Air Force Base.

IRAQ

This post office will also honor those brave Texans who fought and who are fighting in Iraq.

Like Captain David Fraser, a native of Spring, Texas, and West Point graduate.

Captain Fraser was killed in Baghdad on November 26, 2006 by an improvised explosive device, an IED.

For his valor in combat, Captain Fraser was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, among many other awards and honors.

One of the most remarkable stories in American military history is the story of an orphan by the name of Roy Benavidez born in Cuero, Texas. Roy Benavidez was a migrant farmer, and he decided in 1955 to join the United States Army. He later became a Green Beret after being trained at Special Forces Ft. Bragg.

On May 2, 1962, his 12-man Special Forces team was in Cambodia to observe a large-scale North Vietnamese troop movement, but the enemy had discovered them and they were all ambushed. Roy Benavidez was behind those lines and he jumped on a helicopter to help rescue his men. He was in such a hurry the only thing that he armed himself with to go rescue his fellow comrades was a Bowie knife. And after he arrived at the scene, he started moving his fellow warriors to those helicopters so that they could be rescued and taken back to safety.

Roy Benavidez, Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez, was wounded 37 times: seven gunshot wounds and mortar shrapnel in his back along with two bayonet wounds. He was left for dead. In fact, he was put in a body bag, and the person that was putting him in the body bag zipped the body bag up. Roy Benavidez found it within his demeanor to be able to spit in the face of that soldier letting him know he was still alive.

And even though he was wounded 37 times, he recovered. He received the Medal of Honor. President Reagan said at the ceremony, "if this (story) would have been written as fiction, no one would have ever believed it." A great American hero, and we are proud to have him from the State of Texas.

Just recently, Monica Brown served in Afghanistan. She was 19 years old from Lake Jackson and received the Silver Star for her heroism in saving her fellow comrades.

And there are many others that I would like to mention, but I'm not going to do so, and I have just a couple of other comments.

There's a university in Texas called Texas A&M. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor winners than any other university in the United States. And they volunteer and continue to volunteer to serve.

When George Patton was in Europe going to combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had in his division serving with him. He made the comment that, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war." And that's the sentiment that he had and the sentiment that we all have about folks from the State of Texas that are veterans, that have served all the way back from 1836 to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague and hero from the State of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my support for combat veterans from the Lone Star State. You have heard a lot of stories from TED POE.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and Texas native, I think it's great that Humble, Texas, will have a post office dedicated to those selfless men and women in the Armed Forces; and I commend my friend, TED POE, for spearheading this effort.

You know, many war heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan call the Lone Star State home. He mentioned one of

them, but as an example, you may know the name Marcus Luttrell. He was a Petty Officer First Class born in Huntsville, Texas, a former Navy SEAL, awarded the Navy Cross and wrote the New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor." The book details his remarkable story of surviving one of the war's deadliest battles for U.S. Special Forces. I had the honor of meeting him last week, and he's a remarkable individual.

TED mentioned Monica Lin Brown, the 19-year-old medic from Texas who became the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second woman since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest medal for valor. Army Specialist Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees last spring in Afghanistan. After the explosion which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away.

While today I have only mentioned Iraq and Afghanistan, I could go on for hours, as TED POE did, highlighting noticeable Texans who have gone above and beyond their service to this great Nation.

I want to thank Mr. POE and Humble, Texas, for recognizing those men and women who proudly wear the uniform for the United States of America. They help keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. I salute all of our veterans.

God bless you and may God continue to bless our great Nation. I salute all of you in this Chamber for your support for our veterans.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office." I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. POE, for introducing this important bill, and Chairman WAXMAN of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for bringing this legislation to the floor today. I strongly support honoring veterans of our armed forces, and I am proud to join my colleagues in the Texas delegation as an original cosponsor of this legislation. I hope my colleagues will join me in designating this facility as the Texas Military Veteran Post Office as a token of our appreciation.

The American men and women who serve in our armed forces are one of our Nation's most precious resources. Their service to this Nation could never be repaid, but we can ensure that our veterans who have faithfully served our country receive the recognition they are due and the services they need. Passing this resolution will send a strong message to our veterans that we appreciate their service. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must show every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine that we honor and continue to respect their service to our Nation.

Currently, there are 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Because I feel it is time that we recognize the success of our Nation's armed forces, I have introduced H.R. 4020, the "Military Success in Iraq Commemoration Act of 2007." This legislation recognizes the extraordinary performance of the Armed Forces in achieving the military objectives of the United States in Iraq as expressed by the Congressional mandate allowing for use of force, encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe a national day of celebration commemorating the military success of American troops in Iraq.

Most importantly, my legislation provides affirmative and tangible expressions of appreciation from a grateful nation to all veterans of the war in Iraq. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense to award grants to State and local governments "to conduct suitable activities commemorating military success in Iraq" and "to create appropriate memorials honoring those who lost their lives securing military success in Iraq." My legislation sets up grants for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, stating "the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award to each veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom a grant in the amount of \$5,000. The purpose of that grant is to facilitate the veteran's transition to civilian life." I am pleased that thirteen of my colleagues have already signed onto this important legislation.

Renaming this post office facility to honor our veterans is a small but important step toward giving veterans the full accolades that they deserve. At various points in our Nation's history, we have sent our sons and daughters overseas to fight in defense of the great values and principles our Nation was founded upon. At times when the need is greatest, America's soldiers have always stepped up to protect our Nation. Let us show them our gratitude by presenting them with a postal facility that stands as a symbol of their dedication and sacrifice. Let us never forget that one of the things that makes our Nation truly great are the young men and women who have fought to defend it and our way of life.

I firmly believe that we must commend the men and women of our military for their exemplary performance and success. When World War II finally came to an end in 1945, celebrations erupted on the streets of cities and towns across our Nation. One of the most enduring images of that war is not a picture of bombs or destruction, but of a jubilant soldier kissing a woman in New York City's Times Square. The veterans we continue to honor as the "Greatest Generation" returned home not only to open arms, but also to the G.I. Bill, which offered them college or vocational education, as well as one year of unemployment compensation. It also provided loans for re-

turning veterans to buy homes and start businesses.

This Congress has begun to show our appreciation through legislation. We have already enacted significant increases in veterans' health care funding—increasing it by \$5.2 billion. The increase will go for veterans' health programs, including mental health care for returning veterans, especially for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veteran Post Office."

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have no more speakers, and we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5517.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONTRACTING AND TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4881) to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4881

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States Government that no Government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

Section 3720B of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding at the end **“OR CONTRACTS”**;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) Unless this subsection is waived by the head of a Federal agency, a person who has a seriously delinquent tax debt shall be proposed for debarment from any contract awarded by the Federal Government.

“(2) The head of any Federal agency that issues an invitation for bids or a request for proposals for a contract in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 4(11) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401(11))) shall require each person that submits a bid or proposal to submit with the bid or proposal a form—

“(A) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

“(B) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the agency information limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

“(3) The Secretary shall make available to all Federal agencies a standard form for the certification and authorization described in paragraph (2).

“(4) Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to incorporate the requirements of this subsection.

“(5) For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘contract’ means a binding agreement entered into by a Federal agency for the purpose of obtaining property or services, but does not include—

“(i) a contract designated by the head of the agency as assisting the agency in the performance of disaster relief authorities; or

“(ii) a contract designated by the head of the agency as necessary to the national security of the United States.

“(B)(i) The term ‘person’ includes—

“(I) an individual;

“(II) a partnership; and

“(III) a corporation.

“(A) A partnership shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such partnership has a partner who—

“(I) holds an ownership interest of 50 percent or more in that partnership; and

“(II) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

“(iii) A corporation shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such corporation has an officer or a shareholder who—

“(I) holds 50 percent or more, or a controlling interest that is less than 50 percent, of the outstanding shares of corporate stock in that corporation; and

“(II) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

“(C)(i) The term ‘seriously delinquent tax debt’ means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code.

“(ii) Such term does not include—

“(I) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

“(II) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsections (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.”.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF GRANTS TO DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The head of any Executive agency that offers a grant in excess of an amount equal to the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 4(11) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401(11))) may not award such grant to any person unless such person submits with the application for such grant a form—

(1) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

(2) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the Executive agency

information limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(b) *RELEASE OF INFORMATION.*—The Secretary shall make available to all Executive agencies a standard form for the certification and authorization described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) *REVISION OF REGULATIONS.*—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall revise such regulations as necessary to incorporate the requirements of this section.

(d) *DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.*—For purposes of this section:

(1) *PERSON.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term “person” includes—

(i) an individual;

(ii) a partnership; and

(iii) a corporation.

(B) *TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.*—A partnership shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such partnership has a partner who—

(i) holds an ownership interest of 50 percent or more in that partnership; and

(ii) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(C) *TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.*—A corporation shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such corporation has an officer or a shareholder who—

(i) holds 50 percent or more, or a controlling interest that is less than 50 percent, of the outstanding shares of corporate stock in that corporation; and

(ii) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(2) *EXECUTIVE AGENCY.*—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

(3) *SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term “seriously delinquent tax debt” means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code.

(B) *EXCEPTIONS.*—Such term does not include—

(i) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(ii) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsections (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, is a very simple bill and a very timely bill. It prevents companies that don't pay their taxes from receiving contracts with the Federal Government. Today, people across the country are finishing up their tax returns to submit to the IRS by tomorrow. Nobody likes to pay

taxes, but the vast majority of American families and companies obey the law and comply with their responsibilities as citizens and taxpayers.

□ 1500

Unfortunately, some people do not follow the law and have serious delinquencies in paying taxes to the IRS.

What is shocking to me and honest taxpayers across the country is that many companies that didn't pay their taxes were benefitting from Federal Government contracts. GAO studies over the past few years have identified more than 50,000 contractors owing nearly \$8 billion in unpaid Federal taxes. This bill will put an end to that problem once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4881 establishes a process to prohibit companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debt from receiving new Federal contracts and grants. It will reward responsible taxpaying contractors with more opportunities to continue serving the Federal Government for abiding by the law. And it should increase collections because companies will get current on their tax bills if they want to continue receiving Federal contracts. With a mounting Federal budget deficit and rising obligations, the Federal Government cannot afford to leave billions of dollars in tax revenue uncollected.

The sponsor of H.R. 4881, Mr. ELLSWORTH from Indiana, has put in a lot of work on this bill, and I want to thank him for his efforts. As a former sheriff, he wants to make sure people who break the law are not rewarded.

When we get into contracting and tax law, the law gets complicated. He has worked hard to make sure this law will not have unintended consequences. We also received guidance from our colleagues on the Ways and Means and Joint Tax Committees. I would like to thank my friend from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and his staff for their assistance.

Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman RANGEL exchanged letters regarding committee jurisdiction on this bill, and I ask that these letters be placed in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is of monumental importance to improving fairness and efficiency in Federal contracting. I fully support its passage and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2008.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,
Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform
Committee, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY, I am writing regarding H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, which the Oversight and Government Reform Committee ordered favorably reported on March 13, 2008. As you know, a similar bill, H.R. 1870, was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Section 3 of H.R. 4881 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to other agencies whether or not a potential Federal

contractor has a seriously delinquent tax debt as defined by the bill, and requires the Secretary to develop and issue a form for this purpose. As you know, Rule X gives the Committee on Ways and Means jurisdiction over subjects relating to the U.S. Treasury and tax information being disclosed to other agencies generally, and we have successfully asserted jurisdiction over similar legislation.

Because our staffs have worked together to produce this bipartisan legislation, and in order to expedite this legislation for Floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill, and will not oppose the inclusion of these provisions within H.R. 4881. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4881, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, April 11, 2008.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, which the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported, as amended, on April 10, 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that your inaction with respect to this bill does not prejudice the Ways and Means Committee's interests and prerogatives regarding this bill or similar legislation.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor of H.R. 4881.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008.

This legislation would subject any firm that has a seriously delinquent tax debt, defined to mean any time the IRS has filed a tax lien against the company, to a debarment proceeding with the aim of preventing the firm from obtaining a government contract or grant.

Potential contractors and grant recipients must certify that the company does not have any seriously delinquent tax debt in order to be eligible for Federal grants and contracts.

This might sound like a reasonable requirement, and it is. In fact, the administration is currently finalizing a regulation that would require Federal contractors and grantees to certify, among other things, that they have not

been notified by the IRS of liability for delinquent taxes. The proposed regulation would also include the failure to pay taxes as a specific cause for a company to be debarred from receiving Federal contracts. Since the issue addressed in this legislation is already being addressed through the regulatory process, it is unclear to us whether this legislation is necessary. Nevertheless, we will not object to it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. ELLSWORTH.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I would like to thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008.

Tomorrow is April 15, Tax Day, a day when Americans follow through on their civic obligation by filing their tax returns with the Federal Government. Paying taxes isn't something any of us enjoy doing, but we all do it anyway out of a sense of duty to our country.

Each year, taxpayers play by the rules and pay their share of taxes. I don't think it's too much to ask companies, particularly those who receive Federal Government contracts, to do the very same.

According to the Government Accountability Office report, in 2004 and 2005 alone, government contractors owed the U.S. Treasury over \$5 billion, that's billion with a "b," in unpaid Federal taxes. Many of these contractors were closely held businesses that simply gamed the system by withholding employee wages, Social Security, Medicare and individual income taxes and then never sending these withholdings to the IRS.

That doesn't mean that all contractors are cheating the system; in fact, most are not. Most are doing terrific work and putting our tax dollars to good use. But we have a responsibility to protect companies and taxpayer dollars by stopping corrupt contractors from gaming our system. The only way you do that, when they won't do it on their own, is by increased oversight.

This legislation is simple in scope and will go a long way towards ensuring that companies doing business with the Federal Government are doing that in good faith. And by leveling the playing field between contractors, we can better ensure our tax dollars are not used to reward tax cheats.

The Contracting and Tax Accountability Act establishes a process to prevent people who have serious tax delinquent debts from ever receiving Federal contracts or grants. This legislation affirms that it is the policy of the United States that no government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts. It requires that bids for Federal contracts include a certification that the person

does not possess serious delinquent tax debt. An authorization to verify this certification with the Secretary of the Treasury is also required.

The definition of serious delinquent tax debt was carefully defined as an outstanding debt for which a Notice of Lien has been filed in the public record. The definition also excludes tax debt that is being repaid in accordance with an installment agreement, and a tax debt for which a collection due process has been requested.

I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman ED TOWNS for guiding this legislation through his subcommittee, and Mike McCarthy on his staff for lending his expertise. I would also like to thank Senator BARACK OBAMA and Ian Solomon on his staff for their collaboration in the Senate on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act is a practical and cost-effective way to ensure all companies who wish to do business with the Federal Government compete on an equal playing field. This legislation protects good faith contractors who are playing by the rules and brings much needed transparency to how our tax dollars are being spent.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished Chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4881, introduced by Representative ELLSWORTH, is a very important bill. It's a simple one. It's a commonsense bill. It would prohibit the award of Federal contracts to companies that don't pay their Federal taxes. It accomplishes this by requiring contractors to certify they do not have a serious delinquent debt, and to authorize the Treasury Department to disclose such information to contracting agencies.

The Federal Government should not be granting Federal contracts to companies that won't pay their taxes. Companies that cheat on their taxes have an unfair competitive advantage when bidding for Federal contracts because their costs are lowered. This bill will level the playing field and restore fairness to the Federal procurement system.

Representative TOWNS, who is the chairman of the subcommittee, along with Mr. ELLSWORTH, have put a lot of time and effort into addressing these concerns and in crafting a very good bill, and I want to thank them for all their hard work.

The minority also raised some concerns about previous versions of this legislation, and I also want to thank Representative TOM DAVIS for working constructively with us to address those issues.

The end product before us today is solid legislation which should have bipartisan support, and which I hope will address this issue once and for all.

I thank Representative ELLSWORTH for his excellent recommendations in offering this bill and seeing it through to the point where we are now on the House floor. I hope this bill will soon become law.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4881.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4881, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PLAIN LANGUAGE IN GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3548) to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3548

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to improve the Federal Government's effectiveness and accountability to the public by promoting clear communication that the public can understand and use.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" means an Executive agency, as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) PLAIN LANGUAGE.—The term "plain language" means language that the intended audience can readily understand and use because it is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices of plain language writing.

SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN NEW DOCUMENTS.—Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each agency—

(1) shall use plain language in any covered document of the agency issued or substantially revised after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) may use plain language in any revision of a covered document issued on or before such date; and

(3) shall, when appropriate, use the English language in covered documents.

(b) GUIDANCE.—In implementing subsection (a), an agency may follow either the guid-

ance of the Plain English Handbook, published by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Federal Plain Language Guidelines. If any agency has its own plain language guidance, the agency may use that guidance, as long as it is consistent with the Federal Plain Language Guidelines, the Plain English Handbook, published by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the recommendations made by the Comptroller General under section 5(c).

(c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(1) to prohibit the use of a language other than English;

(2) to limit the preservation or use of Native Alaskan or Native American languages (as defined in the Native American Languages Act);

(3) to disparage any language or discourage any person from learning or using a language;

(4) to impact or affect protections regarding language access; or

(5) to be inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States.

(d) COVERED DOCUMENT.—In this section, the term "covered document"—

(1) means any document that explains how to obtain a benefit or service or file taxes, or that is relevant to obtaining a benefit or service or filing taxes; and

(2) includes, whether in paper or electronic form, a letter, publication, form, notice, or instruction but does not include a regulation.

(e) USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE BY AGENCIES.—Each agency should, to the extent practicable and appropriate, use plain language in any collection of information (as defined in section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44, United States Code).

(f) INCORPORATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) REPORTS.—

(A) FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, acting through the Plain Language Action and Information Network, shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on whether the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in the report under section 5(c) have been incorporated into the Federal Plain Language Guidelines described in subsection (b), and, if such recommendations have not been incorporated, an explanation of why they have not been incorporated.

(B) SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on whether the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in the report under section 5(c) have been incorporated into the Plain English Handbook described in subsection (b), and, if such recommendations have not been incorporated, an explanation of why they have not been incorporated.

(2) COMMITTEES.—The committees described in this paragraph are the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted within six months after the issuance of the report provided by the Comptroller General under section 5(c).

SEC. 5. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes how the agency intends to meet the following objectives:

(1) Communicating the requirements of this Act to agency employees.

(2) Training agency employees to write in plain language.

(3) Meeting the deadline set forth in section 4(a).

(4) Ensuring ongoing compliance with the requirements of this Act.

(5) Designating a senior official to be responsible for implementing the requirements of this Act.

(6) Using, to the extent practicable and appropriate, plain language in regulations promulgated by the agency.

(b) ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS.—

(1) The head of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on—

(A) compliance with this Act; and

(B) the agency's continued efforts to meet the objectives specified in subsection (a).

(2) A report under this subsection shall be submitted—

(A) annually for the first two years after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) once every three years thereafter.

(c) EVALUATION AND REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall evaluate existing guidance for agencies on writing in plain language, including the guidance listed in section 4(b), and provide to the Office of Management and Budget, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report providing recommendations on—

(1) plain language guidelines; and

(2) best practices for plain language.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last September, I introduced H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, and I rise today to talk about the responsibility of this government to communicate effectively with its constituents.

I know that lawyers are often blamed for the legalese that makes government documents so difficult to read and understand. Some might find it unusual that this "Plain Language" bill was introduced by someone who practiced law for 23 years before being elected to Congress. They might be surprised to learn that the use of clear,

concise language in communications has been a passion of mine since I began practicing law in 1983, when the Iowa Supreme Court adopted plain language requirements for jury instructions. Since that time, I have been writing and speaking about the importance of using plain language to improve both written and spoken communications.

I was proud to introduce the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, a bill that requires the Federal Government to write documents such as letters from the Social Security Administration or a notice from the Department of Veterans Affairs in simple, easy-to-understand language. This bill has been endorsed by a broad array of organizations, including the AARP, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Disabled American Veterans, the Small Business Association, Women Impacting Policy, the American Nurses Association, and the American Library Association.

I want to thank the Information Policy Subcommittee Chairman William Lacy Clay and Ranking Member Michael Turner, as well as Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member Tom Davis for their support of this important legislation. I am pleased that this bill has such strong bipartisan support and passed unanimously in both of these committees.

Anyone who has done their own taxes knows the headache of trying to understand pages and pages of confusing forms and instructions. There is no reason why the Federal Government can't write tax documents and other public documents in language we can all understand.

Writing government documents in plain language will increase government accountability and will save Americans time and money. Plain, straightforward language makes it easy for taxpayers to understand what the Federal Government is doing and what services it's offering.

Small businesses will also see substantial benefits by eliminating Federal gobbledygook. Small businesses often have limited resources and are forced to hire lawyers and outside consultants to navigate the maze of Federal paperwork and convoluted language.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses estimates that the average per hour cost of paperwork and record keeping for small businesses is \$48.72 per hour. The use of clear, easy-to-understand language in government paperwork will substantially reduce burdens on small businesses.

The Plain Language in Government Communications Act will require the Federal Government to write new publications, forms and publicly distributed documents in a clear, concise, well organized manner that follows the best practices of plain language writing.

I have in my hand the Plain Language Handbook that's already being

used by the Securities Exchange Commission, along with the Federal Plain Language guidelines which were adopted under another plain language initiative that began under President Clinton. These guidelines make it clear that the ultimate purpose of any communication from the Federal Government should be to reach the intended audience, the constituents and citizens of this country, in language they can understand and act upon.

Using complex language in government forms, letters, notices and instructions imposes unnecessary hardships on citizens. Replacing complex language with plain language will improve services to the public, save time agencies spend answering questions about what documents mean, and make it easier to hold government agencies accountable for their work.

This document to my right is a perfect example of what I'm talking about when I talk about the problem posed by using gobbledygook in Federal communications. This is a quote from a former Secretary of Defense, and it says, "There are known knowns. These are things we know we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are some things we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. These are things we don't know we don't know."

□ 1515

That is the problem we are trying to address with this bill.

One other example is this language from a Federal contract requiring investigations of contracts to make sure that they are living up to the purpose that they were intended to perform. This is the original language that was contained in the contracting compliance document, and it covers almost an entire page. The plain language version of that same admonition says simply: "We will take two steps to look at this matter. We will find out if it was an error or a fraud, and we will let you know the result." Clear, concise, and directed to the intended audience.

Finally, one of the best examples of the cost-savings potential is this Veterans Administration form that was used to respond to concerns raised by veterans seeking assistance with their benefits. An old letter that was not drafted in plain language generated an average of 91.4 calls per month, a total of 10,968 calls in a year. After that same form was drafted using these very basic plain language guidelines, they resulted in only 16 calls per month and a total of 1,900 calls for the entire year. You can imagine the enormous savings of time at the Veterans Administration responding to concerns from veterans seeking assistance when you reduce it by that much.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to clarify that nothing in this bill is intended to impact the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 13166, Department of Justice LEP Guidance, any agency LEP guidance, or any other statute, execu-

tive order, agency guidance, regulation, or court order regarding language access.

I hope this bill makes it easier for Americans and small businesses to work with and understand their government. I also hope that in some small way, this bill honors the memory of our former colleague, Maury Maverick, Sr., who served two terms in the House from 1935 to 1939. Congressman Maverick invented the term "gobbledygook" to describe bureaucratic language that was as hard to understand as the call of wild turkeys in his native South Texas.

I want to thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who join me today in standing up for plain language, in standing up for effective communications with our constituents, in standing up for small business owners, and in standing up for taxpayers, who will see significant cost savings when this bill is signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008. This legislation would enhance citizen access to government information services by promoting the use of "plain language" in government documents issued to the public.

Writing in plain language doesn't mean writing only about simple things. It means writing well about anything the government writes about.

During committee consideration of this legislation, Republican amendments were adopted that further the cause of requiring the use of plain language. Mr. SALI succeeded in revising the bill to require plain language be used in preparing collections of information, primarily tax documents, as well as regulations issued by Federal agencies. In addition, the committee accepted an amendment I offered to promote the use of the English language in documents.

I have been a consistent advocate in Congress of improving government accountability, responsiveness, and transparency. I believe this legislation is consistent with these efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, as you sit down to beat the April 15 deadline for filing your tax returns, consider this: In 1913 the IRS tax form, that's singular, "form," was 1 page, and the entire Tax Code was a mere 14 pages long. Today the Tax Code consists of an amazing 15,758 pages bound in 22 volumes. James Madison's words ring true when he said, "It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be

read or so incoherent that they cannot be understood."

Today this Chamber is addressing a commonsense measure, one dedicated to James Madison's proposition that the laws governing us should be readily understood by average citizens.

No one enjoys paying taxes, but at the very least the forms should be readable and understandable to the average American. Americans should be able to tell quickly and easily whether they're paying too much or too little in taxes. It should not take an attorney to figure it out.

It is imperative that Americans know just what is being asked of them, and that is why plain language in tax forms and instructions is so important.

The Plain Language in Government Communications Act will enhance citizen access to government information and services by promoting the use of plain language in government documents issued to the public.

When the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives addressed this bill in January, I raised concerns that the bill only focused on documents relating to benefits or services. Since that time I have worked with Congressman BRALEY to find a way to expand the scope of this bill to include things like tax forms, instructions, surveys, and other similar documents. These changes appear in the text under consideration today, requiring that tax forms and instructions be made available in plain, straightforward language.

During this time of year, we all recognize the importance of plain language as we tackle tax forms. It is my hope that this bill will become law, which will lessen the burden of government on taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to support this important and commonsense measure.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague from Idaho for working to improve this bill and also for sharing my passion for making sure that the Federal Government is doing everything it can to communicate clearly and effectively with the citizens and taxpayers of this country.

I also want to thank my colleague from North Carolina for her excellent point that adopting plain language requirements does nothing to dumb down the intent and purpose of these Federal documents. In fact, the whole point of adopting plain language guidelines is to improve the effectiveness and the clarity of these documents so that the average person who interacts with them on a daily basis is able to respond directly to the responsibilities laid out under the Federal statutes and regulations and perform the obligations that they are required to by law.

So I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for having enormous opportunities to make this a bill that I think we can all be proud of, one that our constituents back home will

benefit from, and one that will save, most significantly, the taxpayers of this country, in my belief, millions and millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased with this bill and urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3548.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would just like to remind everyone that one of the points of the bill is it to save taxpayers money. The example that I used earlier from the Jackson, Mississippi, Veterans Benefits Administration where they changed the form that allowed them to reduce substantially the number of requests they got from veterans seeking help with their disability benefits saved \$10,000 in one year, just that one form. And if you think about the multiplier effect of applying plain language guidelines to documents in every Federal agency that are being sent out to citizens and taxpayers, the enormous potential at savings is something that I think we will all be proud of once this bill is signed into law by the President.

With that, I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 259) honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 259

Whereas the Meals On Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member local senior nutrition programs help those men and women in cities, suburban areas,

and rural communities across America who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or at risk;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member programs provide nutritious meals to individuals who suffer from long-term chronic conditions as well as those who may just need short-term assistance;

Whereas good nutrition is essential to good health and the meals provided by senior nutrition programs contribute to the overall well-being of America's seniors;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member programs serve this country's over 60 population, which is rapidly growing and projected to increase dramatically;

Whereas the demand for the services Meals On Wheels member programs will continue to increase at an astounding pace;

Whereas in the words of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, these programs are needed "so no senior goes hungry"; and

Whereas each March, chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act of 1965, Meals On Wheels member programs across the country conduct local, community-based "March For Meals" fundraising and awareness campaigns: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the important work the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country do in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our nation's seniors each year,

(2) recognizes the important role the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs throughout the country's March For Meals campaigns play in increasing awareness of the need for senior nutrition programs and in raising non-Federal funds and soliciting volunteers to support and assist these programs in accomplishing their important mission,

(3) honors the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs for their continuing hard work and dedication on behalf of our nation's seniors, and

(4) encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March For Meals events and delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 259 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 259, authored by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO). H. Res. 259 honors

and recognizes the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization that provides meals to people in need. Through their many programs, Meals on Wheels strives to support the social, physical, nutritional, and economic needs of vulnerable individuals. Meals on Wheels offers tools and information to programs across the Nation and supports these organizations in making a difference in the lives of those at risk. They do this through professional training, creative leadership, and cash grants. Meals on Wheels helps local senior meal programs provide food and other nutrition services nationwide.

Hunger continues to be a profound problem in our country, Mr. Speaker. Nationwide nearly 38 million people live in households suffering from hunger, up from 33 million in the year 2000. Meals on Wheels is at the forefront of combating hunger by providing nutritious meals to people across the country, those who are elderly, those who are homebound, disabled, or at risk and who are at the greatest risk of going hungry. Even with these impressive efforts, a great need still exists. At this moment 40 percent of Meals on Wheels programs across the country report that there are waiting lists for their nutrition services.

Furthermore, the needs for Meals on Wheels will continue to grow. The elderly population in the United States has grown exponentially over the last few decades and will continue to increase well into the mid 21st century. The demographics that will experience the most growth is that of adults age 85 and older. At the same time, the economic insecurity of this elderly population will continue to rise, creating a dire need for services such as those provided by Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of the annual March For Meals campaign, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the important role that Meals on Wheels programs play all year long all over the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

□ 1530

The senior nutrition programs, authorized under title III of the Older Americans Act, was designed to address problems of dietary inadequacy and social isolation among older people. During fiscal year 2005, 238,000

meals were served to about 2.8 million people. Fifty-eight percent were served to frail older people living at home.

Meals on Wheels is the most recognized name brand of senior nutrition programs. It is the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. Meals on Wheels programs support the independence and well-being of seniors and reduce the isolation experienced by so many elderly. Meals are delivered to seniors' homes, and too frequently the person delivering that meal may be the only person the senior sees all day. The Meals on Wheels program provides human contact and a safety net, particularly for those seniors living alone.

Over the last several decades, a substantial growth in the elderly population has increased the demand for meal services. Today, Meals on Wheels and other similar senior nutrition programs that seek to feed the elderly report that 4 out of 10 programs have waiting lists for nutrition services.

With one baby boomer turning 60 every 7 seconds, the demand for nutrition services will continue to increase. According to a Census Bureau projection, the elderly population in the United States will more than double between now and the year 2050 to 80 million people. It is clear that the work of Meals on Wheels will continue well into the future.

Today, we also recognize the March For Meals campaign which takes place each year during the month of March. This campaign works to commemorate the enactment of the Older Americans Act. It is also a time for Meals on Wheels programs to focus on fundraising, awareness and volunteer recruitment.

Even though March has passed, today I stand in support of this resolution and the Meal on Wheels program. I would like to thank Mr. LOBIONDO for offering this resolution, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to honor and recognize the important role of Meals on Wheels and the role that it plays in combating hunger for the neediest among us.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 259, a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and their annual March for Meals campaign. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Representative LOBIONDO, for asking me to join him as a lead sponsor of this important legislation.

We all know the statistics related to senior nutrition programs and Meals on Wheels. In my home State of Rhode Island alone, there are an estimated 2,200 meals delivered each day to homebound and elderly clients and over 600,000 meals delivered each year by over 1,000 volunteers. The cost to provide one meal each day for one month is less than \$100, by far less expensive than the cost of a nursing home, which averages nearly \$5,000 per month.

I often cite these statistics because I am proud of the work of my local Meals on Wheels program, but these numbers fail to illustrate one of the more important results from the program. Because these clients are homebound, they are too often isolated from their communities and spend their days alone. Even a brief visit from a friendly Meals on Wheels volunteer provides much needed social interaction and a connection to the community.

I have participated in March for Meals in my community, and I encourage other Members of Congress and elected officials to take the time to visit their homebound constituents who receive meals. Unfortunately, one in ten seniors lives in poverty in our Nation and the need for home-delivered meals continues to increase. It is critical that Members of Congress know firsthand the powerful effects of these delivered meals on our seniors, not only to feed their bodies, but to feed their souls.

Thank you, again, to my colleague, Representative LOBIONDO, for introducing this important resolution and to Meals on Wheels and their volunteers for their tremendous work in taking care of our most vulnerable Americans. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 259, and to participate in March for Meals in their home districts.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association.

Established in the 1950s, Meals on Wheels is the oldest private, non-profit, volunteer-based service that delivers nutritious meals to homebound persons, enabling them to maintain their independence and continue to live in their own homes.

The program also provides daily contact with a trained volunteer who provides important social interaction and a link to the community and gives important referral information for other appropriate community resources as needed.

Today's elderly depend on this program throughout the country for their meals and other nutrition services. It is crucial that Congress continue to support this important program in order for the most vulnerable people to receive quality meals in the most efficient and effective manner.

Last year, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Meals on Wheels in my district and prepare meals and deliver them to seniors. It was such a rewarding experience, and I comment the volunteers of this program for making such a difference in people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and service of the Meals on Wheels Association of America. Their contributions throughout the United States touch the hearts of millions of people, and I wish them many years of continued success.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, MOWAA, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns. I would also like to thank my colleague Chairman GEORGE MILLER, of the Education and Labor Committee, for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization in the

United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. The first home-delivered meal program in the United States started in 1954 in Philadelphia, PA. The Meals on Wheels Association of America gives cash grants to local senior meal programs throughout the country to assist in providing meals and other nutrition services. The mission of Meals on Wheels Association of America is "to provide visionary leadership and professional training and to develop partnerships that will ensure the provision of quality nutrition services."

To cite just one example, Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston, in my home city, has been addressing the nutritional and emotional needs of seniors for 30 years. Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston currently serves more than 3,300 hungry, homebound seniors. In January, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples awarded \$9.5 million in State funding to almost 100 agencies that serve meals to homebound elderly and people with special needs, including \$1.4 million to Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston. I personally know of the good work of the Meals on Wheels program because I chaired Houston's Interfaith Ministries Board which ran this program. I would also insure that the program survived.

Currently, senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels report that 4 out of 10 programs have waiting lists for nutrition services. There are 78.2 million Baby Boomers, and one of those Baby Boomers turns 60 every 7 seconds. Every 8 seconds someone else is turning 50. The demand for nutrition services is increasing each and everyday and we must continue to support senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels.

The March For Meals campaign has been slowly growing into a permanent part of the Meals on Wheels consciousness. March for Meals is a campaign that takes place at any time during the month of March. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act. Some programs choose to make their campaigns last the whole month, while others concentrate on a single week or day. The biggest component of March For Meals is the Mayors For Meals Day.

Today, Meals on Wheels programs generally operate locally, at the county level or smaller. Programs vary widely in their size, service provided, organization, and funding. Although Meals on Wheels Association of America is a national program, each local program is entirely independent. Depending on the program, meals may be delivered by paid drivers or by volunteers. Most clients of Meals on Wheels programs are elderly and programs receiving Federal funding may not serve people less than 60 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation recognizes and honors the commendable hard work and dedication exhibited by Meals on Wheels for over the past 50 years. I encourage other Members of Congress to continue to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March For Meals events and campaigns. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 259 and urge all members to do the same.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 259.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1097) expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1097

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 905,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect out of an estimated 6,100,000 children referred for investigations and assessments;

Whereas the number of children who received an investigation or assessment by Child Protective Services increased by 333,000 from 2002 to 2006;

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 1,530 children died tragically as a result of abuse or neglect;

Whereas some of the most vulnerable children in our Nation are the most likely to be maltreated, with the youngest suffering the highest rate of victimization and children with disabilities also experiencing a high risk of maltreatment;

Whereas 91,278 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old;

Whereas children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases;

Whereas a National Institute of Justice study indicated abuse or neglect during childhood increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent and adult criminal behavior by 28 percent;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children;

Whereas 25 percent of children maltreated in 2006 had prior history of victimization.

Whereas child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs;

Whereas community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse;

Whereas the annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104,000,000,000,

according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America;

Whereas child protection agencies are unable to provide important follow-up services such as counseling or case management to 40 percent of the abused and neglected children on their caseloads; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(2) should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect; and

(3) should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert materials relevant to H. Res. 1097 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a child's safety should never be put in jeopardy. That's why I rise in support of H. Res. 1097, authored by Congressman COURTNEY from Connecticut.

H. Res. 1097 is a bill to designate this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We need to shine a light on the tragic circumstances, Mr. Speaker, that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis. As people across the country recognize this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and promote awareness activities in order to reduce the cases of child maltreatment, this resolution moves us one step closer to securing the safety and well-being of all children.

The latest data shows us that in the year 2006, approximately 1,530 children died, died in the United States of America, due to maltreatment, and an additional 905,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that our most vulnerable children are at greatest risk. Approximately 90,000 victims of child abuse and neglect in the year 2000 were less than 1 year old. More than 84 percent of those child abuse victims were less than 1 month old.

These facts are appalling. We must work together to bring attention to this important issue and begin to

strengthen our families and our communities and to keep our children safe. We need to emphasize the need for more prevention programs because prevention works by reducing risk factors, by promoting protective factors and by fostering a commitment for social change.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative COURTNEY for introducing this important bill. It is my hope and it is my goal that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1097 so that together we can reduce child abuse and neglect by increasing public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1097, expressing support for the designation of the month of April, 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to bring attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security.

Child abuse comes in many forms, physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Too often, these forms of abuse are found in combination with one another. Approximately 905,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2006. Nearly 80 percent of the perpetrators were parents of the victims.

Last year, it was estimated that the total annual cost of child abuse in the United States was nearly \$104 billion. This represents more than \$33 billion in direct costs of child maltreatment, including judicial, foster care, law enforcement and health system responses and \$70 billion in indirect costs including long-term economic effects.

Each of us can make a difference in the prevention of child abuse by understanding the causes of child abuse, by learning to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused, by reporting any known or suspected case of child abuse, by being a friend to a child or a parent in need and by alerting others to the problem.

I want to thank the folks in Wilkes County who invited me to attend a vigil at Our House in Wilkes County which provides services to abused children there. Every year, the staff and volunteers of Our House hold a vigil to raise awareness of this terrible problem in our area of the country. I know that other counties in the Fifth District of North Carolina, which I represent, also have worked to raise awareness. I want to particularly commend them for doing it.

In 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was first enacted to create a focal point in the Federal Government to identify and address issues of child abuse and neglect and to support effective methods of prevention and treatment. Through this act,

States receive grants to help with their child protective service functions, improve investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment and to assist community-based family resource and support services.

Today, we recognize that child abuse and neglect are preventable through the efforts of schools, neighbors, families and the community. Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us all with an opportunity to work together to keep children safe and to provide the support that families need to stay together and raise children and youth to be happy, secure and stable adults.

In 1983, April was first proclaimed as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, every April, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country. That is why I stand in support of this resolution, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this great resolution, Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut, and a member of the committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her leadership by managing this resolution this afternoon and for Congresswoman FOXX's strong support that she just articulated very powerfully.

As Congresswomen WOOLSEY and FOXX stated, the statistics that the resolution lays forth clearly show the grave seriousness of this problem of child abuse all across America. In addition, though, just to the horrible trauma to the victims of child abuse, which by itself would be reason to fight this problem, society pays a huge price due to the high incidence of alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, and criminal behavior that has been clearly shown to occur in the later lives of too many children who were abused and neglected.

Recent statistics, for example, show that 14 percent of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children and 36 percent of women in prison were abused as children. And it is easy sometimes to get very discouraged about the numbers that just seem to suggest a problem that is growing almost out of control. In Connecticut, the State where I come from, for example, in between 1990 and 2003, the incidence of reported child abuse actually doubled. But I would suggest that perhaps we should look at those numbers in a different fashion, because what is also happening out there is that as a country, we are prepared, as never before in the past, to confront this issue. Mandated reporting laws now require that doctors, mental health providers and professionals in all arrays of professions that deal with families and children are now required by law to report incidents of abuse which in the past would have been swept under the

rug. And that is one of the reasons why the number of cases are going up.

In addition, I think we should also be encouraged by a smarter and more effective approach that is being developed to fight child abuse, the multidisciplinary teams that are pulling together police, social workers, prosecutors, health care providers, nurse practitioners and doctors who are now systematically working together to make sure, number one, that complaints are dealt with accurately, but also that victims are diagnosed, treated and interviewed in an organized fashion so that there is more effective prosecution of cases.

If it seems as though I may be a little bit passionate about this issue, it is because my wife, Audrey, has been a pediatric nurse practitioner for 18 years in Connecticut, has worked at Saint Francis Hospital at Hartford and Windham Hospital as part of the multidisciplinary team, again, that is employing the best techniques possible to make sure that complaints are handled intelligently, swiftly and also in a comprehensive fashion so that prosecutions are not lost or neglected due to the fact that we don't have systems in place to make sure that the cases are handled in an effective manner.

This resolution, I think, adds to both of those positive trends by putting the spotlight on this issue to make sure that we, as a country, are prepared to confront the issue, to talk about it openly, to talk about the numbers that are out there and the terrible consequences that we face as a society when we don't deal with the issue.

So hopefully this year, like prior years, as Congresswoman FOXX indicated, April will act as a month where awareness will continue to grow, that we are going to continue to, as a society, deal with this issue honestly and frankly so that, A, we will protect our children who are our most valuable national treasure, and, B, that we will have systems that are prepared to effectively prosecute and punish perpetrators, and finally, that we are going to treat and care for people who have been abused in such a terrible fashion, because it helps not only them, but it helps American society.

So again, I applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY for bringing this measure out on the floor this afternoon and I urge unanimous passage when it comes up for a vote later this evening.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I also thank Congresswoman FOXX for her support in all of these bills that have come before us this afternoon.

It is so important that together on both sides of the aisle and that we understand the urgency of the resolution like Congressman COURTNEY's resolution today.

Child abuse should be something we talk about and think about every day, every minute, every second. There should never be a time when we don't worry about the little children in our country and in our world and what adults do to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution to make sure we bring it to the attention of those around the country, not just this month, but every month following.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1097, "Expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security." I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

There is no greater crime than an individual can commit to a child than the crime of child molestation and child abuse. The perpetrators of this crime rob children of their innocence. Moreover, victims of child molestation are profoundly affected for the rest of their lives. As parents, elected officials and concerned citizens, we have an obligation to condemn this violence, work for stronger enforcement of the law and provide adequate funding for programs to assist children who may have experienced such abuse.

The problem of violence against children and sexual exploitation of children has been highlighted by recent events involving brutal acts of violence against children. Some recent incidents you may remember include: (1) the abduction, rape and killing of 9 year old Jessica Lunford (who was buried alive); (2) the slaying of 13 year old Sarah Lunde, both of whom were killed in Florida by career criminals and sex offenders. In Philadelphia, four defendants were charged with the stabbing and killing of a 15 year old girl, who they then threw into the Schuylkill River. All of these tragic events have underscored the continuing epidemic of violence against children. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases.

Sadly, sexual abuse is often committed by a family member. Approximately 91,000 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old. Incest is the most common form of child sexual abuse. It is often perpetrated by adults that have been entrusted with caring for a child—a family friend, babysitter, a teacher, day care worker, or even religious leaders. At least one out of five adult women and one out of ten adult men report having been sexually abused as children. In Texas, there were more than 111,000 investigations of child abuse and neglect by the Child Protective Services in Texas. Of those cases, 7,650 were sexual abuse.

In addition, the sexual victimization of children is overwhelming in magnitude and largely unrecognized and underreported. Statistics show that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are

sexually exploited before they reach adulthood, yet less than 35 percent of the incidents are reported to authorities. This problem is exacerbated by the number of children who are solicited online—according to the Department of Justice 1 in 5 children (10 to 17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations online.

It is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children. Child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs. Community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse. The annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104 billion according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America.

It will take more than just stronger enforcement of the law to prevent child molestation and other forms of abuse against children. To end this serious abuse of children, all segments of the community such as parents, educators, religious leaders, and community leaders must create a nurturing environment for children where they know that they are loved and deserve to be protected from violence and sexual abuse and feel comfortable in reporting.

Local law enforcement receives increased flexibility in how it invests grants for child abuse victims, specifically by providing access to criminal conviction records by child protective and child welfare workers. This would enable workers to determine if troubled children are victims of abuse. State law enforcement would also have access to court child custody, visitation, protection, guardianships and stay away orders. Police could use this information to establish the validity of urgent complaints concerning children who may have been kidnapped by an abusive ex-spouse.

I express my support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I believe we should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. We should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5719, TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-585) on the resolution (H. Res. 1102) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2634, JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-586) on the resolution (H. Res. 1103) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 886, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 994, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3548, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on H.R. 5517 and H. Res. 1097 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

YEAS—380

Abercrombie	Conaway	Green, Gene
Ackerman	Conyers	Grijalva
Aderholt	Cooper	Hall (NY)
Akin	Costa	Hall (TX)
Alexander	Costello	Hare
Altmire	Courtney	Harman
Arcuri	Cramer	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Crenshaw	Hayes
Bachmann	Crowley	Heller
Bachus	Cubin	Hensarling
Baird	Cuellar	Herger
Baldwin	Cummings	Herseth Sandlin
Barrett (SC)	Davis (AL)	Higgins
Barrow	Davis (CA)	Hill
Bartlett (MD)	Davis (IL)	Hinchee
Barton (TX)	Davis (KY)	Hinojosa
Bean	Davis, David	Hirono
Berkley	Davis, Tom	Hobson
Berman	Deal (GA)	Hodes
Berry	DeFazio	Hoekstra
Biggert	DeGette	Holden
Bilbray	DeLauro	Holt
Billirakis	Dent	Hooley
Bishop (NY)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hoyer
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hunter
Blackburn	Dicks	Inglis (SC)
Blumenauer	Dingell	Inslee
Blunt	Doggett	Israel
Boehner	Donnelly	Issa
Bonner	Doolittle	Jackson (IL)
Bono Mack	Doyle	Jackson-Lee
Boozman	Drake	(TX)
Boren	Dreier	Johnson (GA)
Boswell	Duncan	Johnson (IL)
Boucher	Edwards	Johnson, E. B.
Boustany	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Boyd (FL)	Ellison	Jones (NC)
Boyd (KS)	Ellsworth	Jones (OH)
Brady (TX)	Emanuel	Jordan
Braley (IA)	Emerson	Kagen
Broun (GA)	Engel	Kanjorski
Brown (SC)	Eshoo	Kaptur
Brown-Waite,	Etheridge	Keller
Ginny	Everett	Kennedy
Buchanan	Fallin	Kildee
Burgess	Farr	Kilpatrick
Burton (IN)	Feeney	Kind
Calvert	Ferguson	King (IA)
Camp (MI)	Filner	King (NY)
Campbell (CA)	Flake	Kingston
Cannon	Forbes	Kirk
Cantor	Fossella	Klein (FL)
Capito	Foster	Kline (MN)
Capps	Fox	Knollenberg
Cardoza	Frank (MA)	Kucinich
Carnahan	Franks (AZ)	Kuhl (NY)
Carney	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Carson	Gallely	Lamborn
Carter	Garrett (NJ)	Langevin
Castle	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Castor	Giffords	Larson (CT)
Chabot	Gillibrand	Latham
Chandler	Gingrey	LaTourette
Clarke	Gonzalez	Latta
Clay	Goode	Lee
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Levin
Clyburn	Gordon	Lewis (CA)
Coble	Granger	Lewis (GA)
Cohen	Graves	Lewis (KY)
Cole (OK)	Green, Al	Linder

Lipinski	Ortiz	Sires
Loeb sack	Pallone	Skelton
Lofgren, Zoe	Pastor	Slaughter
Lowe y	Pearce	Smith (NE)
Lucas	Pence	Smith (NJ)
Lungren, Daniel E.	Perlmutter	Smith (TX)
Lynch	Peterson (MN)	Snyder
Mahoney (FL)	Petri	Souder
Maloney (NY)	Pitts	Space
Manzullo	Platts	Speier
Marchant	Poe	Spratt
Markey	Pomeroy	Stark
Marshall	Porter	Stearns
Matheson	Price (GA)	Stupak
Matsui	Price (NC)	Sullivan
McCarthy (CA)	Putnam	Sutton
McCarthy (NY)	Rahall	Tancredo
McCaull (TX)	Ramstad	Tanner
McCollum (MN)	Rangel	Tauscher
McCotter	Regula	Taylor
McCrery	Rehberg	Terry
McDermott	Reichert	Thompson (CA)
McGovern	Reyes	Thompson (MS)
McHenry	Reynolds	Thornberry
McHugh	Rodriguez	Tiahrt
McIntyre	Rogers (AL)	Tiberi
McKeon	Rogers (KY)	Tierney
McMorris	Rogers (MI)	Towns
Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Udall (NM)
McNerney	Roskam	Upton
McNulty	Ross	Van Hollen
Meeks (NY)	Rothman	Velázquez
Melancon	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
Mica	Royce	Walberg
Michaud	Ruppersberger	Walden (OR)
Miller (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Walsh (NY)
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Walz (MN)
Miller (NC)	Salazar	Wamp
Miller, Gary	Sali	Wasserman
Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda T.	Schultz
Mitchell	Sanchez, Loretta	Waters
Mollohan	Sarbanes	Watson
Moore (KS)	Saxton	Watt
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Waxman
Moran (KS)	Schiff	Welch (VT)
Murphy (CT)	Schmidt	Weller
Murphy, Patrick	Scott (GA)	Westmoreland
Murphy, Tim	Scott (VA)	Wexler
Murtha	Sensenbrenner	Whitfield (KY)
Musgrave	Serrano	Wilson (OH)
Myrick	Sessions	Wilson (SC)
Nadler	Sestak	Wittman (VA)
Napolitano	Shadegg	Wolf
Neugebauer	Shea-Porter	Woolsey
Nunes	Sherman	Wu
Oberstar	Shimkus	Wynn
Obey	Shuler	Yarmuth
Oliver	Simpson	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—51

Allen	Gutierrez	Radanovich
Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Renzi
Becerra	Honda	Richardson
Bishop (GA)	Hulshof	Rohrabacher
Brady (PA)	Jefferson	Rush
Brown, Corrine	Lampson	Schwartz
Butterfield	LoBiondo	Shays
Buyer	Mack	Shuster
Capuano	Meek (FL)	Smith (WA)
Culberson	Moran (VA)	Solis
Davis, Lincoln	Neal (MA)	Tsongas
Delahunt	Pascrell	Turner
English (PA)	Paul	Udall (CO)
Fattah	Payne	Weiner
Fortenberry	Peterson (PA)	Weldon (FL)
Gilchrest	Pickering	Wilson (NM)
Gohmert	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)

□ 1858

Mr. TERRY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL GLANZMANN'S THROMBASTHENIA AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]

YEAS—377

Abercrombie	Crenshaw	Herseth Sandlin
Ackerman	Crowley	Higgins
Aderholt	Cubin	Hill
Akin	Cuellar	Hinchee
Alexander	Cummings	Hinojosa
Altmire	Davis (AL)	Hirono
Arcuri	Davis (CA)	Hobson
Baca	Davis (IL)	Hodes
Bachmann	Davis (KY)	Hoekstra
Bachus	Davis, David	Holden
Baird	Davis, Tom	Holt
Baldwin	Deal (GA)	Hooley
Barrett (SC)	DeFazio	Hoyer
Barrow	DeGette	Hunter
Bartlett (MD)	DeLauro	Inglis (SC)
Barton (TX)	Dent	Inslee
Bean	Diaz-Balart, L.	Israel
Berkley	Diaz-Balart, M.	Issa
Berman	Dicks	Jackson (IL)
Berry	Dingell	Jackson-Lee
Biggert	Doggett	(TX)
Bilbray	Donnelly	Johnson (GA)
Billirakis	Doolittle	Johnson (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Bishop (UT)	Drake	Johnson, Sam
Blackburn	Dreier	Jones (NC)
Blumenauer	Duncan	Jones (OH)
Blunt	Edwards	Jordan
Boehner	Ehlers	Kagen
Bonner	Ellison	Kanjorski
Bono Mack	Ellsworth	Kaptur
Boozman	Emanuel	Keller
Boren	Emerson	Kennedy
Boswell	Engel	Kildee
Boucher	Eshoo	Kilpatrick
Boustany	Etheridge	Kind
Boyd (FL)	Everett	King (IA)
Boyda (KS)	Fallin	King (NY)
Brady (TX)	Farr	Kingston
Braley (IA)	Feeney	Kirk
Broun (GA)	Ferguson	Klein (FL)
Brown (SC)	Filner	Kline (MN)
Brown-Waite,	Flake	Knollenberg
Ginny	Forbes	Kucinich
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Kuhl (NY)
Burgess	Fossella	LaHood
Burton (IN)	Foster	Lamborn
Calvert	Fox	Langevin
Camp (MI)	Frank (MA)	Larsen (WA)
Campbell (CA)	Franks (AZ)	Larson (CT)
Cannon	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Cantor	Gallely	LaTourette
Cantor	Garrett (NJ)	Latta
Capito	Gerlach	Lee
Capps	Giffords	Levin
Cardoza	Gillibrand	Lewis (CA)
Carnahan	Gingrey	Lewis (GA)
Carter	Gonzalez	Lewis (KY)
Castle	Gonzalez	Linder
Castor	Goode	Lipinski
Chabot	Goodlatte	Loeb sack
Chandler	Gordon	Lofgren, Zoe
Clarke	Granger	Lowe y
Clay	Graves	Lucas
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lungren, Daniel E.
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lynch
Coble	Grijalva	Maloney (FL)
Cohen	Hall (NY)	Maloney (NY)
Cole (OK)	Hall (TX)	Manzullo
Conaway	Hare	Marchant
Conyers	Harman	Markey
Cooper	Hastings (WA)	Marshall
Costa	Hayes	Matheson
Costello	Heller	Matsui
Courtney	Hensarling	
Cramer	Herger	

McCarthy (CA) Pomeroy
 McCarthy (NY) Porter
 McCaul (TX) Price (GA)
 McCollum (MN) Price (NC)
 McCotter Putnam
 McCrery Rahall
 McDermott Ramstad
 McGovern Rangel
 McHenry Regula
 McHugh Rehberg
 McIntyre Reichert
 McKeon Reyes
 McMorris Reynolds
 Rodgers Rodriguez
 McNerney Rogers (AL)
 McNulty Rogers (KY)
 Meeks (NY) Rogers (MI)
 Melancon Ros-Lehtinen
 Mica Roskam
 Michaud Ross
 Miller (FL) Rothman
 Miller (MI) Roybal-Allard
 Miller (NC) Royce
 Miller, Gary Ruppertsberger
 Miller, George Ryan (OH)
 Mitchell Ryan (WI)
 Mollohan Salazar
 Moore (KS) Sali
 Moore (WI) Sánchez, Linda
 Moran (KS) T.
 Murphy (CT) Sanchez, Loretta
 Murphy, Patrick Sarbanes
 Murphy, Tim Saxton
 Musgrave Schakowsky
 Myrick Schiff
 Nadler Schmidt
 Napolitano Scott (GA)
 Neugebauer Scott (VA)
 Nunes Sensenbrenner
 Oberstar Serrano
 Obey Sessions
 Olver Sestak
 Ortiz Shadegg
 Pallone Shea-Porter
 Pastor Sherman
 Pearce Shimkus
 Pence Shuler
 Perlmutter Simpson
 Peterson (MN) Sires
 Petri Skelton
 Pitts Slaughter
 Platts Smith (NE)
 Poe Smith (NJ)

NOT VOTING—54

Allen Gutierrez
 Andrews Hastings (FL)
 Becerra Honda
 Bishop (GA) Hulshof
 Brady (PA) Jefferson
 Brown, Corrine Lampson
 Butterfield LoBiondo
 Buyer Mack
 Capuano Meek (FL)
 Carney Moran (VA)
 Carson Murtha
 Culberson Neal (MA)
 Davis, Lincoln Pascrell
 Delahunt Paul
 English (PA) Payne
 Fattah Peterson (PA)
 Gilchrest Pickering
 Gohmert Pryce (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on the vote.

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PLAIN LANGUAGE IN GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill, H.R. 3548, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 1, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

YEAS—376

Abercrombie Davis (AL)
 Ackerman Davis (CA)
 Aderholt Davis (IL)
 Akin Davis (KY)
 Alexander Davis, David
 Altmire Davis, Tom
 Arcuri Deal (GA)
 Baca DeFazio
 Bachmann DeGette
 Bachus DeLauro
 Baird Dent
 Baldwin Diaz-Balart, L.
 Barrett (SC) Diaz-Balart, M.
 Barrow Dicks
 Bartlett (MD) Dingell
 Barton (TX) Doggett
 Bean Donnelly
 Berkley Doolittle
 Berman Doyle
 Berry Drake
 Biggert Dreier
 Bilbray Duncan
 Bilirakis Edwards
 Bishop (NY) Ehlers
 Bishop (UT) Ellison
 Blackburn Ellsworth
 Blumenauer Emanuel
 Blunt Emerson
 Boehner Engel
 Bonner Eshoo
 Bono Mack Etheridge
 Boozman Everett
 Boren Fallin
 Boswell Farr
 Boucher Feeney
 Boustany Ferguson
 Boyd (FL) Filner
 Boyda (KS) Forbes
 Brady (TX) Fortenberry
 Braley (IA) Fossella
 Broun (GA) Foster
 Brown (SC) Foxx
 Brown-Waite, Frank (MA)
 Ginny Franks (AZ)
 Buchanan Frelinghuysen
 Burgess Gallegly
 Burton (IN) Garrett (NJ)
 Calvert Gerlach
 Camp (MI) Giffords
 Campbell (CA) Gillibrand
 Cannon Gingrey
 Cantor Gonzalez
 Capito Goode
 Capps Goodlatte
 Cardoza Gordon
 Carnahan Granger
 Carney Graves
 Carson Green, Al
 Carter Green, Gene
 Castle Grijalva
 Castor Hall (NY)
 Chabot Hall (TX)
 Clarke Hare
 Clay Harman
 Cleaver Hastings (WA)
 Clyburn Hayes
 Coble Heller
 Cohen Hensarling
 Cole (OK) Herger
 Conaway Herseth Sandlin
 Conyers Higgins
 Cooper Hill
 Costa Hinchey
 Costello Hinojosa
 Courtney Hirono
 Cramer Hobson
 Crenshaw Hodes
 Crowley Hoekstra
 Cubin Holden
 Cuellar Holt
 Cummings Hooley

Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mitchell
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pastor
 Pearce
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Petri
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Reyes
 Reynolds
 Rodriguez
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sali
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Simpson
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Snyder
 Souder
 Souder
 Space
 Speier
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tancred
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Towns
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden (OR)
 Walz (MN)
 Wamp
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Welch (VT)
 Weller
 Westmoreland
 Wexler
 Whitfield (KY)
 Wilson (OH)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman (VA)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Yarmuth
 Young (AK)

NAYS—1

Flake

NOT VOTING—54

Allen Hastings (FL)
 Andrews Honda
 Becerra Hulshof
 Bishop (GA) Hunter
 Brady (PA) Jefferson
 Brown, Corrine Lampson
 Butterfield LoBiondo
 Buyer Mack
 Capuano Marchant
 Chandler Meek (FL)
 Culberson Moran (VA)
 Davis, Lincoln Murtha
 Delahunt Neal (MA)
 English (PA) Pascrell
 Fattah Paul
 Gilchrest Payne
 Gohmert Peterson (PA)
 Gutierrez Pickering

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 183 and 184, and “nay” on rollcall vote 185.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on April 14, 2008, I missed 3 recorded votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on recorded vote number 183, "yea" on recorded vote 184, and "yea" on recorded vote 185.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1119. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858.

RECOGNIZING DAVIDSON COLLEGE WILDCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS SEASON

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Davidson College, President Tom Ross, Coach Bob McKillop, and the Davidson College Wildcats men's basketball team, which had one remarkable basketball season. Davidson College is one of a number of outstanding colleges and universities in my congressional district. The Wildcats basketball team finished its regular season undefeated in the Southern Conference, won the Southern Conference tournament, and went on to their third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

In the NCAA tournament, Davidson College delivered three stunning upsets, eliminating the Gonzaga Bulldogs, the Georgetown Hoyas, and the Wisconsin Badgers on their way to the Elite Eight. In the Midwest regional finals, the Wildcats gave a tremendous effort before ultimately falling to Kansas by 2 points. Kansas, of course, went on to win the National Championship. By any measure Davidson College was the Cinderella team of this year's NCAA tournament.

In a fitting tribute to his coaching and leadership, Coach Bob McKillop re-

ceived the Coach Clair Bee Award on April 7, honoring the NCAA Division I men's basketball coach who has made the most significant positive contribution to the sport during the year.

I wish Coach McKillop and his Cinderella Davidson Wildcats continued success. I am fortunate to represent Davidson College and their outstanding scholars and athletes in Congress. We'll be back next year.

WELCOME POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, tomorrow Pope Benedict XVI will make his first papal visit to the United States of America. This is an exciting time for America and the over 64 million American Catholics to celebrate the relationship between our Nation and The Vatican and our continued work towards peace and humanitarian needs around the world.

During his trip, the Pope will visit New York City and Washington, D.C., where he will attend Mass at Nationals Park and Yankee Stadium, visit the World Trade Center site, and attend ceremonies and meetings at the White House with President George W. Bush. As an extraordinary sign of respect, the President will welcome the Pope at Andrew's Air Force Base in Maryland and escort him to the White House. Pope Benedict is just the third Pope to visit the United States, and this visit marks the 25th meeting between a sitting President and a Pope.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, I welcome Pope Benedict to the United States. I hope his visit will be a positive reminder of the importance of our relationships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

Welcome Michael McCrory Wilson, who was born on April 11, 2008, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia, South Carolina.

SALUTING "HOMES FOR HOMETOWN HEROES"

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm delighted to rise today to salute "Homes for Hometown Heroes."

Many of us, my colleagues and myself, Members from as far away as California and Arizona, had the privilege of being in Houston, Texas, last evening at the Hyatt Regency to celebrate a very unique and special program where our hometown heroes, injured soldiers, were able to receive their own home by the largess and generosity of many heroes in our community.

Madam Speaker, it's a moving experience to see our soldiers coming in in-

jured but yet strong and resilient. What a privilege to be able to present to them a key to their own home.

I look forward to working with this caucus, the Democratic Caucus, the Republican Conference, and all of our Members to spread this message across America. One has said that all of what they've done, they deserve to be respected and responded to, a home for the injured soldiers, brain damaged, those who cannot walk in wheelchairs, to simply say "thank you." I look forward to announcing a posttraumatic stress disorder center in my own 18th Congressional District.

Last evening reinforced the fact that nothing is too great for those who have put their lives on the front line. I look forward to celebrating the hometown heroes.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VICTIMS OF CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and in the criminal justice system, Madam Speaker, we've come a long way to the time that we recognize the importance of victims and honor them for a whole week.

Before I came to Congress, I was working in the District Attorney's office in Houston, Texas. That was even before I was a judge for 22 years. And I often reflect on one crime victim that taught me more about the way the world really is than maybe any other person.

Many years ago I had the opportunity to prosecute a case, and I'm going to change the names because the victim's family still lives in the Houston area and are concerned about their privacy.

This young lady was married and had two twin boys. And she had a good career. She was in her early 20s, and she was going to the University of Houston at night to get a second degree.

And one evening she was driving home, and she had car trouble. The lights came on in the dash of her vehicle. So she pulled over to a service station that she thought was open. But the service station was not open, it was closed.

She got out of the car, and she started talking to who she thought was a service station attendant. But the individual, Luke Johnson, was not a service station attendant. He was just hanging around. He pulled out a pistol. He kidnapped this young lady, Lisa,

and took her to a remote area in the piney woods of East Texas. He pistol whipped her. He sexually assaulted her, and he left her for dead. In fact, when he was later arrested, he was mad that he hadn't killed her.

But she was a remarkable young lady. She survived that brutal attack. Three or four days later, she was found in the woods by a hunter that was out there. Medical needs were met for her. She recovered that brutal attack. Luke Johnson was later captured and charged with aggravated sexual assault.

I was fortunate to prosecute that case. Lisa came and testified before a jury of 12 citizens of Houston, Texas. Luke Johnson was convicted. He received the maximum sentence of 99 years in the Texas State Penitentiary.

And, Madam Speaker, we would hope that all would be well with victims after that, that the world would go on and things would work out well. But that's not the world that we have ever lived in.

Lisa couldn't quite cope with being the victim of a crime. She never went back to that campus at the University of Houston. You can understand why. She couldn't hold a job. In fact, she was fired from her job because she couldn't focus. She started abusing drugs, first alcohol and then probably everything else that she could get her hands on.

Her husband, the kind of guy that he was, no longer wanted her, sued her for divorce, and was able to convince a judge in Houston that he should obtain both of the twin boys, and he left the State of Texas for good, claiming that she was not mentally capable to raise those two children.

And soon after that occurrence, I received a phone call from Lisa's mother telling me that she had received a note from her daughter saying that she was going to take her life. And she did. And I have that note with me today. I've always had that ever since this crime occurred, all the years I was a judge, and I have it in my office here in Congress, saying that she was tired of running from Luke Johnson in her nightmares.

She paid the ultimate price for being a crime victim, Madam Speaker. And because of the fact in those days there was no victim advocate, there was no one that she could turn to, she felt alone. She was alone, Madam Speaker.

But the criminal justice system in this country has come a long way. We have victims' advocates, who take care of the needs of victims, all the way from the time the crime is committed, through the trial, and after the trial. And we have people in the medical profession that donate their time to help in the recovery of crime victims. And now we have in the United States Congress a Victims' Rights Caucus. I'm proud to be the founder of that, but it's a bipartisan caucus. Jim Costa from California, a Democrat, is the co-chairman of this caucus. We have over 44 members, of Members of both parties,

who seek and advocate rights of crime victims here in the United States House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, we have come a long way. But we have a long way to go because crime victims are real people. Crime doesn't discriminate based on race, age, sex, or economic status. Crime affects so many people through this country. And we, as good neighbors, need to make sure that we keep up with people who have had that unfortunate experience of being a crime victim, especially of a violent crime. Because the same Constitution that protects the rights of criminal defendants protects the rights of crime victims. And we should always seek justice because justice is what we do in this country. And that means that we must always have justice for victims as well.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1930

IRAQ'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, as we enter the sixth year of the seemingly endless occupation of Iraq, the International Committee of the Red Cross published a worrying report about the State of the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

In its entitled "Iraq: No Let-Up in the Humanitarian Crisis," the publication shows just how far we need to go to meet the most basic needs of the Iraqi people. Despite the rosy picture being painted by some in the administration, too many Iraqis are still without health care, clean water, and/or education.

And many families have been torn apart by the civil war wracking the country. Family members have gone missing or have been killed. Some have been shipped off to detention centers.

Estimates range on how many people, mostly men, have been locked up. According to the Red Cross, "Tens of thousands of Iraqis, almost all of them men, are currently in detention often far from their homes."

One camp is situated in the southern part of the country near Basra and is managed by the United States-led multinational forces in Iraq. At the same time, this is the largest detention facility in the country. And there are more than 20,000 inmates in that detention camp.

The situation means that many families have lost their breadwinner. The new heads of household, many women and many children, have to cope in a world that seems to be without home or promise for the future. And their day-to-day life is just as bleak.

Instead of improving, the supply of electricity has become even more unreliable. Because of this, water sanitation plants are breaking down and hos-

pitals find they cannot provide adequate care, even if they had the medical supplies to meet the demand, which they very seldom do.

Parents the world over, Madam Speaker, American, Iraqi, or anywhere else, only want the best for their children. They want their kids to be happy. They want them to be healthy. They want their kids to go to school, to grow up and to have a chance to achieve their dreams. That is why ongoing occupation is about more than statistics or numbers.

The Red Cross reports helps to put a human face on the administration's so-called foreign policy. One such story actually highlights the struggle faced by too many. Here is Ruba's story. She says, "My children and I left my home in Anbar province almost 2 years ago. My husband had been killed right in front of us." She continues, "I had to protect my children, so we fled the same night with nothing but some money. For me, today, there is no past, there is no future, only a horrible present. I only wish I had some photos of my husband, photos of my family. I can see it all in my mind, but I don't know for how long I will remember. There was a time when we always sat down together for lunch and laughed. Today, we are living with my cousin's family."

She goes on to say, "There are 12 of us in one room. I don't want my old life again, because I know it is impossible without my husband. All I want is for my children to go to school and lead a normal life."

The story of this mother, Madam Speaker, a woman just 38 years old, is heartbreaking. We have a solemn obligation to help the Iraqi people achieve a future that is both secure and stable.

In the 5 minutes we stand here to deliver our special order speeches, the administration spends over \$1 million to prolong the endless occupation. I think the people of America could find a better way to show our commitment to the Iraqi people.

The American people's generosity and commitment to humanitarian assistance is boundless. But our patience with this administration's foreign policy follies is actually not boundless. This Congress must stand up to the administration. We must say "no" to a blank check. Let us redirect our resources to where they are really needed, towards aid, not ammunition.

UNJUST PROSECUTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS COMPEAN AND RAMOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is day 453 of a terrible injustice in America. Two U.S. border agents, Agents Compean and Ramos, have been languishing in Federal prison since January 17 of 2007.

These men did their job to protect our Nation from an illegal alien, a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our border into Texas. Yet through a questionable prosecution, these two men were convicted for defending themselves and defending our border.

It is a sad day that such a travesty of justice could happen to two Hispanic Americans who loved America so much that they were willing to become law enforcement officers, and in this case Border Patrol agents, in order to protect America. Despite the efforts of the American people and Members of Congress, who have brought this to the attention of the White House, nothing, and I say nothing, has been done to reverse this injustice.

While outside groups and Members of Congress have filed court briefs to support these agents, we still anxiously await a decision in their appeal. The more time these men spend in prison and the longer it takes for a decision on their appeal, the more frustrated the American people become.

The American people have not forgotten agents Ramos and Compean. From time to time, I still hear from constituents who are frustrated that these men are still in prison. The only glimmer of hope for these agents and their families rests with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. During an oral argument on December 3, 2007, one of the judges considering the case, Judge E. Grady Jolly said, and I quote, Madam Speaker, and this is his quote, "It does seem to me that the government overreacted here. For some reason, this one got out of hand." That is a Federal judge that made that comment.

A ruling on their appeal is now expected any day, and millions of Americans are hopeful that the Court of Appeals will reverse this terrible injustice.

Madam Speaker, I still call on Chairman JOHN CONYERS to hold a hearing to review this unjust prosecution some time before the end of the year. Chairman CONYERS is a fair-minded person for whom I have great respect. Justice is crying out for his help.

And Madam Speaker, before I close, I want the Ramos and Compean family to know that there are those in both parties in this House of Representatives that are not going to sit back and wait until this injustice is corrected because these two border agents deserve nothing but praise for what they have done for this great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OIL EXPORTS FROM COLOMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the papers back home tell the story: 25 firefighter jobs advertised, thousands of applicants. Bass Pro Sporting Goods building a new store, 300 jobs, 13,000 applicants, and the applications keep coming in. Yet the Bush administration last week sent Congress another job-killing NAFTA-like trade pact, this time for the South American nation of Colombia.

But why Colombia? And why now? The answer to both questions, in a word, is oil. Rather than paying attention to what is happening in this country, again, the Bush administration is focused to a new set of global oil deposits.

Why Colombia? In the big picture of global trade, Colombia is relatively insignificant to the United States. So why would the Bush administration make it a top priority in the final year of his presidency? Because oil represents more than half of Colombia's exports to the United States. And nothing drives Bush administration policy more than oil.

Ten years ago, Colombia wasn't even exporting oil. It was an oil-importing country. But with the Middle East in turmoil, the Bush administration, like the Clinton administration before it, is doing everything it can to make Colombia safe for oil exports to us. At a time when U.S. relations with Venezuela, South America's leading oil producer, have dropped to an all-time low, Colombia has emerged as the continent's fourth leading supplying supplier.

A decade ago, as I mentioned, Colombia was an oil-importing nation. Now, multinational oil companies have made huge investments because of tax favorability in the area of a giant, crescent-shaped, underocean oil field that stretches from Colombia to Peru. This trade agreement is not about cocoa. It is not about coal. It is not about cut flowers. This is an agreement about oil.

Buying oil from Colombia piles more oil trade deficit on top of the \$800 billion overall trade deficit our Nation has wracked up with nations all over the world. We continue to export jobs at an accelerating rate and import more and more and more from abroad with oil leading the way by far the number one category in the red.

As in Middle East, the United States government is pouring billions of dollars into Colombia in the form of military and foreign aid in order to protect the oil companies' investments.

Why now? Because the United States is being forced by political realities to relocate its sole defense base in Latin America out of Ecuador, whose president wants it removed from there. And by contrast, the Uribe government in Colombia has welcomed U.S. military involvement, seeing an opportunity to court favor with the Bush administration and the military protection that aid provides for oil exports. Only Israel

and Egypt receive more military assistance from the United States.

According to Amnesty International, which opposes military aid to Colombia until human rights concerns are addressed, the U.S. contributes approximately \$750 million, a quarter of \$1 billion, each year. It is estimated that our country has sent Colombia more than \$5 billion under the guise of Plan Colombia, with most of the assistance going to the military and police.

These parallels with the Middle East are troubling. In both regions, the United States risks its reputation with the "people on the street" by mixing economic designs on resources not belonging to us, and then moving defense assets to protect that interest.

Yes, average Americans are justifiably upset over rising prices at the pump. A gallon of gasoline now costs as much or more than a gallon of milk. Think about that. But surely the answer to this predicament is not to increase our oil dependence on Colombia. If our citizens saw how our America has dedicated its military assets to back up that oil flow owned by private interests, they would be really enraged. In Latin America, the United States is viewed as anything but the "Sweet Land of Liberty."

As in the Middle East, public opinion throughout Latin America has turned strongly negative toward the United States. People to our south view the Bush administration's policies as concerned only with the wealthiest segments of society or their American investment partners and essentially apathetic about democracy for the average person. To achieve the real Alliance For Progress envisioned by John F. Kennedy, our policies should promote democracy and cooperation, not resource exploitation.

Why would our government tether itself to a regime that has tolerated the murder of thousands of labor leaders, more than the rest of the countries of the world combined? Already this year, 17 more labor leaders have been assassinated in Colombia. The Bush administration's failure to cure America's oil addiction is no reason to overlook the crimes of impunity that are being committed regularly against organized labor in Colombia.

Once again, however, our foreign policy is being held hostage to the demands of an oil-based economy. Haven't we moved beyond the 20th century? The issue is not the U.S. trade relationship with Colombia, but the failure of the Bush administration to make our economy more stable at home by pursuing the important goal of energy independence.

Our national leaders should wake up and move us to freedom from imported petroleum. This is a national imperative as serious as our Nation has ever faced. We don't need Colombian oil now. We need energy independence here at home.

□ 1945

SUPPORTING COLOMBIA, AMERICA'S BEST FRIEND IN LATIN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express concern about an action taken by the majority of this House this past week.

When the question is often asked, who is America's best friend in Latin America, no matter where you are in Latin America, they always say the democratically-elected government of Colombia is America's best friend.

This last week, the House of Representatives voted to turn its back on America's best friend. At a time when the autocrats threaten democracy, when democracy is at risk in Latin America by those who threaten it, such as the President of Venezuela, this Congress, this House, voted to turn its back on Latin America's oldest democracy, America's best friend in Latin America.

If you think about it, who else is Colombia? Colombia is also America's most reliable and strongest partner when it comes to addressing terrorism and addressing narcotics. Colombia has been there.

President Uribe, the President of Colombia, today is the most popular elected President in the entire hemisphere. This Congress has a 15 percent approval rating with the American people. Fifteen, 1-5 percent. President Uribe has 80 percent approval ratings with his own people. Why? Because he was elected to reduce violence. He was elected to bring security to his country, and today 73 percent of the Colombian people have said in a recent opinion poll that they feel more secure in Colombia. Seventy-two percent in that same poll said they believe President Uribe is making progress and at the same time protecting human rights. So President Uribe has made tremendous progress.

Today, violence has been reduced, kidnapping is down, murder rates are down. In fact, it is safer to walk the streets of Bogota, Colombia, or Medellin, once known as the most dangerous city in all the world, than it is to walk the streets of Washington, DC.

President Uribe with Plan Colombia and the support of his own people has made tremendous progress. They are reliable partners, reliable friends. And last week this House voted to turn its back on the democratically-elected government of Colombia. Think what message that sends to Latin America, about how the United States House of Representatives respects and treats our friends in Latin America.

We have before us a trade promotion agreement with Colombia. It is a good agreement. My friend and colleague from Ohio says it is all about oil. We don't need a trade agreement to buy oil

from Colombia. In fact, right now Colombian products, manufactured goods and farm products enter the United States duty free. There are no taxes on their imports. But U.S. products, such as construction equipment, the bulldozers that could be used in mining and various other economic projects in Colombia, face 15 percent tariffs. Our corn and soybeans and livestock products face tariffs of up to 40 percent, but Colombian agricultural products enter the United States duty free. We need a trade promotion agreement with Colombia to even the playing field.

We often hear from folks back home, you know, we need trade agreements that are fair and where we treat each other equally, so if they get access to our market, we get access to their's. Well, under the status quo, they have that. We need this agreement so we get access to their market.

Some say Colombia is not very important. Well, there are 42 million people there. It is the second largest Spanish-speaking Nation in the world. It is America's best friend. But we have a good agreement before us.

Some have said we need to oppose this agreement because there has been violence against union activists. The Uribe government has acknowledged that. In fact, they have done some incredible things. They have increased the budget for prosecution of violent acts by 72 percent. They have added almost 2,200 prosecutors and lawyers and others for the Prosecutor General to go after those who commit violent crimes.

When it comes specifically to labor leaders in Colombia, as the Washington Post has pointed out, the murder rate for labor leaders in Colombia is actually lower than the national murder rate, and any murder is unacceptable, whether it is here in Washington, DC or Bogota.

The bottom line is, Colombia is our friend. This House voted to turn its back on our best friend. We need to move forward on the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. We should bring that forward and give our best friend in Latin America what they deserve. They have earned it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WATT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN SCHIP BILL TO HELP WORKING AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in the well today to talk about an event that occurred last weekend on Saturday in Tolland, Connecticut, which is a suburban town about 20 miles east of Hartford.

The Connecticut State Dental Society held an open free clinic under a program called Mission of Mercy, which is a group of dentists around the country that organize operatories and equipment to go into communities and basically open the doors and say anybody who needs dental care, come and we will take care of you. The advertising for this event in Connecticut was modest. There were some TV public service announcements, there were some small notices in the press.

The Dental Society had organized about 180 dentists, a number of hygienists and staff to be with the group that morning. Much to their amazement, people started lining up for this event at 6 o'clock the prior evening, Friday evening, and by 4 o'clock in the morning, when the dentists actually arrived to start setting up the operation, there were already 350 people waiting in line to get their care. By 5 o'clock in the morning, the crowd had grown to the point where the Connecticut State Police had to come out and actually turn people away.

At about 5:30 in the morning, the heavens opened up. There was thunder, lightning, and it rained, it was pouring rain, hard rain on the crowd, and none would leave, because they were terrified of losing their place in line and being deprived of the opportunity to get an extraction, to get a filling, to get their teeth cleaned, because they were so desperate to get dental care. Looking at the pictures in the press the following day of people literally huddled in the rain waiting to try and get an opportunity to get their teeth taken care of, it really made you wonder what country are we living in.

Tolland, Connecticut, where this is being held, is suburban Connecticut. This is not a distressed area. This is not an urban area with large pockets of chronic poverty. It is a suburban area with working families and working individuals who definitely earn a paycheck and provide a standard of living that would be described as middle class for themselves and their families. But when I joined the dental clinic later in the day around 1 o'clock in the afternoon, 800 people were at that point lined up to be served. They had turned away hundreds of others. People were waiting in the stands of a gymnasium, waiting for an opportunity to get their teeth taken care of.

Now, why am I talking about this on the floor of the United States Congress? The reason is because there is

legislation that has been sitting on the President's desk, the SCHIP bill, the children's health insurance extension, over which there has been a lot of fighting and debating going on in this Chamber over the last few months or so.

One of the overlooked parts of that legislation is that in addition to standardizing a 300 percent poverty threshold so that working families would have an opportunity to have their children covered by health insurance, it would also strengthen the dental coverage under the SCHIP program.

If you talk to any dentist or any healthcare provider in this country, they will tell you that under the existing SCHIP program, the dental coverage is inadequate. That is why in those stands in that high school gymnasium there were families with children who have never had their teeth cleaned, who needed in some instances to have their teeth extracted because of the fact that they have no other type of decent coverage for their dental care.

Unfortunately, President Bush has twice vetoed this legislation, legislation that has been endorsed by the March of Dimes, by the Catholic Hospital Association, by the American Medical Association, by the Pharmaceutical Association of America, a broad consensus of stakeholders in the healthcare system that have come together and said if there is one area of dispute that we ought to agree on as Americans, it is that children should have their health insurance covered. In particular, we should make that sure that oral and dental healthcare is done in a fashion to make sure they are going to have a lifetime of decent dental care. Because if you talk to anyone who is in pediatrics, they will tell you that dental care, dentistry care, is essential to making sure that a young person will grow and thrive.

Well, what we saw in Connecticut on Saturday is I think a perfect example of how broken the system is. What is frustrating to me, and I think so many others, is that we have an opportunity with a piece of legislation to make a real difference in the lives of young children in America, to make sure that they will not be stuck in the pouring rain and in thunder and lightning, so they can get access to what I think almost any reasonable person would describe as basic, fundamental, decent healthcare.

Madam Speaker, I have a copy of the Hartford Courant coverage of this extraordinary event that took place in Connecticut from the Sunday Hartford Courant edition which I am going to ask to be made part of the RECORD. I would just like to read the final passage of the article, which described a 67-year-old Stafford Springs woman, which is, again, a suburb of Connecticut.

"As she walked back to her parking lot with no umbrella, soaking wet from the rain, struggling to catch her breath

from the walk, the woman said she had come to get her tooth pulled, but already knew she would never get in. Like the others, she can't afford dental insurance." When she was asked what she was going to do, she said, "Just going to pray, I guess."

She should be able to ask for more than that. She should ask for real action by this Congress to pass healthcare legislation so that Americans will get the care they need.

Madam Speaker, I include the article for the RECORD.

[From Courant.com, April 13, 2008]

MANY TURNED AWAY FROM FREE DENTAL CARE CLINIC

(By Colin Poitras)

The line of taillights glowing in the pre-dawn darkness snaked back nearly a mile from the old Tolland High School on Saturday.

Closer to the school, people were walking along the side of the road, a steady stream of dark silhouettes rising out of the morning mist like refugees in a war zone.

There were elderly couples clutching their canes, hunched-over veterans, single mothers with young children in tow. A woman on crutches limping along.

It was 5 a.m., and they came by the hundreds, a throng of pilgrims with a common goal—free dental care.

Some heard about it on the radio, others saw it on TV or read about it in the newspaper. Connecticut's Mission of Mercy, the first ever single, large-scale free dental clinic to be offered in the state.

"This shows we have a broken system and have to find some way to correct it," said Dr. Bob Schreibman, a Glastonbury pediatric dentist and one of the Connecticut mission's organizers. "This is not a solution. This is a stop-gap measure to address people's immediate needs. This points out there is a huge need even in this, the richest state in the country."

Inside the school, more than 190 volunteer dentists were waiting along with 800 volunteers. Free fillings, check-ups, extractions. No questions asked.

The high school's cafeteria and gym were outfitted like a field hospital, with 60 dental chairs shipped in from the Midwest, portable X-ray machines and boxes upon boxes of latex gloves and sterilized dental tools.

The crush of patients was so large that by 7 a.m., people were being turned away.

When Carol Dingledey, executive director of the Connecticut State Dental Association, arrived to set up at 4 a.m., there were already 350 people outside the door. Some came the night before and camped out. Others drove hours in the dark hoping to be seen.

"It just goes to show you how many people don't have dental insurance," said Mary, a 70-year-old woman, standing in a line of about 100 people outside the school at 5:30 a.m.

Leaning on her cane, Mary, who didn't want to give her last name, said she spent her entire life working and raising nine children and grandchildren. Now on limited income, she can't afford dental insurance, never mind pay fees out of her pocket. She hasn't been to a dentist in eight years. Her teeth hurt. She needs a filling, and a cap had come off.

"I've never been on welfare; I've never had to struggle to get by," Mary said. "But here it is. This is the bottom of the line. I'm just trying to get by."

About a half-mile away in the parking lot of the new Tolland High School, where orga-

nizers had set up a shuttle parking area, Rhonda Slattery, 54, sat in her motorized wheelchair waiting for her husband, Joe. They had just finished the hourlong ride from Barkhamsted and weren't sure the school bus shuttling people to the make-shift clinic was handicapped accessible.

"I'm just amazed at the number of people here at this hour of the morning," said Rhonda Slattery, whose limited Social Security disability income makes it difficult for her to afford dental care.

As she spoke, the sky opened up and it started to rain. Hard.

Inside the school at 7 a.m., what could be the largest waiting room in Connecticut was packed to its 700-seat capacity. The auditorium was full of people: more retirees, working people, college kids, entire families. Some huddled under blankets. Others sat quietly, waiting for their number to be called, many of their faces swollen or creased in pain.

In the triage area just outside the auditorium, dentists peered into people's mouths with portable flashlights. Nurses and dental assistants hustled about—checking blood pressures, taking X-rays, injecting Novocain.

In the gymnasium, down the hall the high-pitched whine of dental drills floated above the crowd as dozens of dentists treated patients. Those awaiting care sat in the bleachers, then moved to metal folding chairs before reaching the dental chairs. A squad of stand-by dentists stood off to the side, scrubbed and ready, waiting to replace their peers when their hands cramped and they needed a break.

The two-day clinic opened at 5 and the work would not stop until 5 p.m. Today it continues from 5 a.m. to noon.

Sitting among the throng were Susan and Brian Boyce of Eastford, both 41, who came to the clinic with their seven children—from age 12 down to 11 months. (The baby was just along for the ride.) Brian is an executive director at the Porter and Chester Institute. Susan is a registered nurse who stays home with the kids.

But they don't have dental insurance and with annual dental check-ups costing more than \$1,000 a year, paying for even routine dental care is difficult, they said.

"The dentists don't take payment plans, they want the money up front, and that's a big chunk of money when you try to go every year," Susan said.

Shortly after 7 a.m. the clinic was maxed out. Organizers began turning people away at the door. The backlog was so deep that it would take the rest of the day just to treat those already there. Later in the morning, the clinic reopened briefly, and another 100 or so patients were let in. It abruptly closed again by 10 a.m.

For some, the clinic is a blessing, a reprieve from their aches and pain. But for those who didn't get inside, the struggle continues. Many in the pre-dawn dark turned back upon seeing the long line.

"It's pretty bad," said one 67-year-old Stafford Springs woman, as she walked back to the parking lot with no umbrella, soaking wet from the rain. Struggling to catch her breath from the walk, the woman said she had come to get her tooth pulled at 5 a.m. but already knew she'd never get in. Like the others, she can't afford dental insurance.

As she climbed into her car, the woman was asked what she was going to do. Water dripped off her hair as she wearily shook her head.

"Just going to pray, I guess."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 14, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,866 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard

this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,866 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 14, 2008—12,866 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

THE STATUS OF ENERGY IN THE WORLD TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, it was a pleasure to be down here listening to the special orders of my friends from the various States, and especially my friend from Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, and I understand his compassion and concern. But I will tell you that if we don't get a handle on these energy costs, people aren't going to have the money to do the things they want to do with their families on a day-to-day basis. So we have this time tonight to talk about energy and our energy status in the world today.

We started doing this last week on a bill that came to the floor that we are going to finish this week, the Beach Protection Act of 2007. We took that opportunity to talk about that. But we ought to be addressing some of the pressing concerns of this country today.

We hear the term that America, and rural America, is bitter. It is a big phrase today and over the weekend. They are bitter. They are bitter about high energy costs, and they are bitter about the fact that this Congress is not doing anything to address the supply part of this debate.

More supply means lower costs. That is basic economics 101. Anyone who has gone to have a bachelor's degree, and even some good high school programs teach economics, it is a simple supply and demand equation. So we are going to talk about energy tonight. My focus is going to be on supply, how we need more supply.

We also hear a lot this year about change. We want change, and everybody wants change. But, you know, change is not always good. Here is an example of change.

Since the Democrats got in the majority, when they first got sworn in, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58.31. Today, the price of a barrel of crude oil is \$111.15. I would say that is bad change. That is not good change. So change is not always good. This is negative change, and it flies in the face of promises from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

The Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI said on April 24, 2006, about 2 years ago, "Democrats have a common-sense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing gas prices." Well, that was almost \$60 a barrel less ago, and \$1 and change per gallon of gas less.

□ 2000

Majority leader STENY HOYER said, October 4, 2005, "Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices."

Well, they did. They did. What did they do? They raised their gas prices. You want to talk about not being able to pay for dental care? People are using their money to get to work.

In rural America, we drive long distances. Rural America doesn't have the access of buses. Rural America doesn't have the opportunity to take the Metro or light rail.

Those who are driving distances to get to work are harmed exponentially greater. Democrats proffered lower gas prices. What do we have? We have higher gas prices. All we are asking them to do is keep their prices. Help them lower the price of gasoline, but they won't do it. Do you know why they won't do it?

They won't do it because they really hate fossil fuels in this country. They hate crude oil, and they hate coal. They hate crude oil, and they hate coal.

They hate fossil fuels, so to address high prices, what we have to do is bring on more fossil fuels to the market, and they won't do it. That's why we are not going to have any relief on gases.

Constituents ask me, what are you going to do to lower prices? What are you going to do, Congress? I just shake my head, and I said the only thing that's going to happen is prices are going to go up because demand is going to continue to go up, supply is going to stay the same, and you are going to have higher prices.

Democrat Whip JIM CLYBURN, Democrat from South Carolina, said "House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices." Jim got it wrong. "No" is not an energy plan. They had no plan, and when you have no plan, you plan to fail, and what do you get? You get higher prices.

We know we are going to have \$4 a gallon gas this summer sometime. We know it. In fact, the newspapers are

starting to raise this issue, "\$4 gasoline seen possible this summer," the Buffalo News, April 9, 2008; price at the pump likely to reach \$4, the Washington Times, April 9, 2008; "\$4 Per Gallon Gas Creeps Closer," Fox News, Denver, Colorado, April 9.

We know we are going to have \$4 a gallon of gas. How do we stop that from happening? We have to bring on more supply. I have some friends here to join me, but I am going to finish with one solution that has bipartisan support, and that's coal-to-liquid technologies.

There are a lot of ways we can address this debate and this issue, but let me just pitch one to you. The Illinois Coal Basin, and I am from Illinois, I am biased, the Illinois Coal Basin is basically the State of Illinois and the southwestern part of Indiana and the western part of Kentucky. That's all a big coal field.

Under the ground there is as much fossil fuel energy in coal as Saudi Arabia has in oil, 250-year's worth. We have been mining and using it for generations. In fact, I am fourth-generation Lithuanian American. My great grandfather immigrated to my home town of Collinsville, Illinois, where I still live. What did he do? He worked in the coal mines. My grandfather worked in the coal mines.

In southern Illinois, we have coal mines and we have mine workers. We have an abundant natural resource.

Now, we know coal can be used to generate electricity, but I am not talking about generation of electricity right now. What I am talking about is liquid fuels, the stuff that we need to put in our cars so we can get to work. How do we lower the price of gasoline in this country? That's where coal-to-liquid technology comes in.

We also had these budget airlines, three of them went bankrupt, one is on the verge. What's one of the problems? The high cost of aviation fuel.

All those people are unemployed. They don't have a job. They are going to be a burden to the safety net. They are not going to have dental care which was provided by their employer. But now they are unemployed because of the high cost of jet fuel.

How do we bring liquid fuel back to the arena that the budget airlines and the soccer mom, who is shepherding those kids around in the minivan, can afford to do that. We bring on more supply. One option is to use our vast resources of coal in this country and use that technology that goes back to World War II, the Fischer-Tropsch technologies.

Synthetic fuel, Sasol, the South African oil company has been using it for decades. It just got permission to use synthetic aviation fuel for the British commercial air fleet.

We have not a single coal-to-liquid plant in this country. The premise is simple, you have a coal mine. This is surface mining, mostly western coal here. In Illinois it would be below surface.

At that location you build a coal-to-liquid refinery. First of all you have jobs, jobs in the coal mine. Then you have jobs that build a refinery. Then you have jobs to operate the coal mines and jobs to operate the refinery, good-paying jobs with good-paying benefits and dental care. Then you have a pipeline so you don't have to address the transportation of this fuel, and you pipe it to the major metropolitan areas of this country, or you pipe it to the air base.

You know the number one aviation fuel user in the world, you know who it is? Our United States Air Force. They are begging for this opportunity. They are held captives to imported crude oil and the high cost of jet fuel.

We can do it here. We know what Katrina did to the refineries in the gulf coast, it shut a couple of them down, causing price spikes, causing dislocations.

Well, what's the benefit of this technology? You don't have to have it on the gulf coast. You are not importing the crude oil. You can build one in southern Illinois. You could build one in Wyoming, in Montana. You could build one in Kentucky or Ohio or West Virginia, right where the coal is located, close to the pipeline that connects to our major metropolitan areas, available, low-cost fuel to turn into jet fuel, gasoline, aviation fuel, diesel fuel, things that are causing great concerns and problems in our country today.

We have got bills to do this. Many Members do. My bill, I am the primary cosponsor with Congressman RICK BOUCHER, a Democrat from Virginia, on a price-collar provision. There are provisions for long-term contracting. There are some other marketing provisions out there where we could do this, we could send a signal to industry.

We want to do this, we want to have these up and running in 5 years. We want to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil. We want to lower the cost of fuel. This Congress could do it. I guarantee you if we did it, this administration would sign the bill.

It's up to Democrats who made promises in 2006 that they had a plan to lower the price of gasoline. You read the quotes. I read the quotes to you, Madam Speaker.

You know the promises that were made. You know the promises that were not kept. In fact, not only were the promises not kept, we have done worse. You didn't lower the cost of fuel, we raised the cost of fuel. We didn't lower the price of a barrel of crude oil.

When Speaker PELOSI got sworn in, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58.31; today, \$111. Now I did this part of the speech last week, it was \$110. It has gone up \$1 just since Wednesday.

With that, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman GARRETT. I thank him for joining me. I yield you some time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

As I so often say when I come to the floor, in looking back 16 months, this country has been under the control of the Democrat-led Congress. What has those 16 months wrought? We have higher food prices, a recession now in the economy with which almost everyone agrees, even former Chairman Greenspan, housing prices basically in a free fall down and, of course, energy prices going through the roof.

You made a comment about gasoline prices being up to almost \$4 a gallon by the summer. Of course, diesel fuel already, in my neck of the woods, the great State of New Jersey, is at \$4 a gallon.

It amazes me each time I drive past the pump. I don't use diesel. Truckers most often do. Farming equipment on the farms do. Of course, I am amazed that people are still able to make a living.

But 16 months under a Democrat-controlled rule here in the House of Representatives, what has it wrought? We have higher food prices, a recession in the economy, free fall of the housing prices and energy prices through the roof, causing hardships for all Americans.

I come from the State of New Jersey. When I go home, I just went home for the weekend, and I talked to my friends and constituents back home. They are paying the price, at the pump, at the food store, everywhere, and it's creating a real hardship for the American family.

When the American family sits down each week and pays their bills, gets out their checkbook, and say how are we going to pay this month's mortgage payment, this month's rent payment, first they have to pay all of these other expenses.

At the end of the week, they realize the money is just not in the checkbook anymore. One of the root causes is the price of fuel. They are probably scratching their heads saying what is the Democrat-led majority in the House doing about it? Where is that plan that you were referring to that the Democrats campaigned on 18 months ago before they took over the majority? Where is that plan during these last 16 months now that they have been in the majority?

My constituents wait. You and I wait.

In the meantime, let's take a look at the facts. Democrats make all sorts of claims about the price of energy, about the price of gasoline prices. I would like to address just three or four of them.

First of all, one of the most frequent things, and you see hearings on this over and over, Democrats will say, well, it's because of America, it's because of those American oil companies that we have skyrocketing prices. Let's get into the facts a little bit about that, though. U.S. energy companies are not even in the top 10 when you look at total proven oil reserves and gas reserves in the entire world.

For example, ExxonMobil has less than 5 percent of the stock held by Saudi Aramco. A full 53 percent of the price we pay for gasoline when we go to the pump is related to the price of the crude oil that goes into it, a world commodity.

Can Democrats really accuse American oil companies of so influencing prices when they own such a marginally small amount of the total world supply? When we think about it, this is a part and parcel of the Democrat blame America first doctrine here too in energy.

Secondly, Democrats say that the U.S. needs to decrease demand for oil. We have to live more modestly, I guess, is what that really translates out to be.

It turns out the facts are this, in recent years U.S. American families' demand for oil and all its uses has actually begun to stabilize, and we have seen over a period of time an actual decrease in the amount of use. Meanwhile, world demand for oil has actually increased to 84 million barrels a year. That's an increase of 16 million barrels just over the last decade.

While we are willing and able and want to work with the other side of the aisle to come up with ways to conserve fuel, the facts point to the fact that we should not be blaming America first with regard to increased use of oil. But it's the rest of the world that is just increasing their consumption, which is a supply and demand factor.

Thirdly, Democrats are off to say that the Americans already have reliable access to energy supplies. Well, when we get into the facts, it refutes what the Democrats are saying.

The U.S., as a matter of fact, is the only, the only industrial Nation in the entire world that locks up 85 percent of its open available deep sea energy reserves. Let me repeat that number again, 85 percent of our reserves offshore and elsewhere are locked up. We can't get to them. You and I can't use them today, our children can't use them tomorrow, grandchildren in the future, they are locked up under their plan.

Even worse, we have not even built a new refinery in this country for the last 32 years. As a result of these factors, 63 percent of our energy supplies that we should be able to use right here in this country are obtained from foreign sources instead. The Democrat plan makes us even more reliant on foreign sources, those same foreign sources that are unreliable, unstable and oftentimes hostile to the United States as well.

□ 2015

Fourthly, Democrats claim that the Federal Government, the bureaucrats here in Washington, must micro-manage, if you will, and regulate these American oil companies. Again, what are the facts. The facts are that in 2007, these very same American oil companies and themselves spent \$183 billion in new investment. What does that do,

that leads to the development of more efficient environmental fuels on the market.

Meanwhile, the Democrat majority has voted to raise taxes four separate times just during the 110th Congress. I began my remarks asking what has 16 months under Democrat control wrought when it comes to this country, well, one point there is four separate times taxes have gone up during this Congress. And where does that end up being paid from? Well, tomorrow is April 15, tax day, and we know who pays. It comes down not on the corporations and big business, it is comes down on the consumer.

So soaring prices are the result of supply and demand, and the best approach to energy efficiency and cost reduction is one that is market based. The worst approach is no plan whatsoever, which is what we have seen by the other side of the aisle, and a lack of a plan that engages in such rhetoric as blame America first, restrict the development of efficient energy resources that are American based, and the worst plan is to make the United States and the citizens of this country even more reliant on those unstable and hostile regimes.

I thank the gentleman for coming to the floor tonight and reminding all of America about the dilemma that we face going in, both in the short term with the family budget today and the future, and the great need we have to have a plan put in place and implemented. I look forward to working with you to achieve such.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague for coming down to the floor. As he was speaking I was thinking, and of course I started by talking about two buzz words that are out there because of this politicized season. I think we need to merge them together.

What we have from the Democrat majority on energy policy is bitter change. Bitter change; \$58 a barrel for crude oil to \$111 per barrel of crude oil; \$2.40 for a gallon of gasoline to \$3.50. We have bitter change, not good change, bitter change because there is no energy policy.

First there are the grand promises made by the Democratic leadership which I quoted earlier and will probably quote again. No change, bad change, bitter change. It is unfortunate because it is our citizens who are feeling the burden.

I started this last week again during the healthy beaches discussion. It is amazing as I was looking at the stories over the weekend flying home and flying back today, a whole bunch of articles. "Truckers feel the crunch of high diesel prices." This one is better. "Independent truckers join strike." It has tractor-trailer rigs, shut them down, on strike. Try \$4 a gallon; bitter change to the independent truck driver. There is no energy policy. When you have no policy, you have a failed policy.

Another article, "High fuel prices mean high costs." There is a lot of

blame being given to the agricultural sector because of the high cost of food, but the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City said over the past three decades, rising labor and energy costs have boosted that share steadily from 67 percent in the 1970s to 80 percent today.

The Federal Reserve Bank also estimated that a 10 percent gain in energy prices could contribute to 5.2 percent increase in retail food prices. And, John Urbanchuk in an article "The Relative Impact of Corn and Energy Prices in the Grocery Aisle" on June 14, 2007, said rising energy prices had a more significant impact on food prices than did corn.

Bitter change; no energy plan. The Democrats failed to bring supply into the energy debate. We can pass efficiencies and renewables, but the reality is it is only nibbling around the edges. The Energy Information Agency projects a 30 percent increase in demand in electricity by 2030, a 30 percent demand increase. And we are nibbling around the edges. People think we are going to do it with solar panels and wind turbines. They can help. We would like to have them. In fact, I just heard Illinois is one of the largest States to try to employ wind power. But it is not going to meet our demand. Energy prices are going to go up, and when they do, the average American citizen, especially in rural America, pays a disproportionate burden because we have to travel long distances to go to work. We don't have the commuter rails and the bus services. What we have is our truck. And we like our trucks.

I am going to talk about electricity generation. I have spent a lot of time on liquid fuels, but I am joined by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and so I yield to him at this time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I thank Congressman SHIMKUS, and I appreciate your leadership today and also on the Energy and Commerce Committee where Congressman SHIMKUS has worked hard on issues to help solve the problems in this country.

Congressman SHIMKUS, you are right. I didn't realize until you showed the chart, how much under Democratic leadership oil prices have gone up. It is staggering. And gas prices have gone up, too, under Democratic leadership in this Congress.

Congressman SHIMKUS knows, too, that we have tried very hard on the Energy and Commerce Committee to have rational, comprehensive solutions in this country. We had a bill recently where Congressman SHIMKUS tried to get some of his legislation into this bill that would have helped a great deal, the coal-to-liquids technology, and it was stifled. They wouldn't allow it in.

What kind of bill did we get. Congressman SHIMKUS is right, "no" is not an energy policy. We got no energy policy. We got a bill that was energy policy in name only.

What they did was they had those curly light bulbs with mercury from China in them and everybody is going to put the bulbs in their homes, and that is really going to help our energy solution. That is a step in the right direction, I guess, but it is not going to solve our problem.

Also they looked at efficiencies in our appliances, which is a good thing, but we need to go much, much further.

One of the things that Congressman SHIMKUS talked about is supply and demand, and that is what this is all about. We haven't built a refinery in this country in the last 30 years. Congressman GARRETT was talking about that. That is a problem. When all of our refineries are operating at maximum capacity, you can only get so much fuel out of them. We need more refineries in this country, and we can do it in an environmentally sound way.

Also, we need to spur domestic production, getting more oil, gas and coal in the United States instead of relying on countries, particularly in the Middle East, that we have been at war with recently. That is not a good idea. If it is in our backyard, let's get it here. Nobody wants to hurt the environment. Everybody wants to have clean air, water, and land. The oil, gas and coal companies do, too.

We also need in our energy policy to start looking at other energy sources as well. That is important, getting away from oil, gas and coal, but it is not going to be in the near future. It is a pure technology-driven issue. And we need alternative sources of energy. We need solar and wind. We need nuclear. We need alternative fuels. We need all of those things, but it is going to take time. You can't do it immediately. We need to develop those technologies to where they can be brought to the public, like batteries in cars developed to where people can afford them, and develop and use alternative energy sources. And we need to develop more gas and oil here in the United States.

You know, Cuba allows China to drill off the coast of Florida. Yet in the United States, we can't drill in a lot of places offshore here in the United States. We can't do it.

Also here in the United States there are areas where we can't explore in. We hear a lot about the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve. Let's develop that here in the United States. There is a vast quantity of oil in the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve. We can develop it in an environmentally sound way where it is not going to hurt some caribou or anything like that. The Alaskan pipeline, they said that was going to happen there, yet the caribou actually like the pipeline. They use it for shelter.

But if we develop the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve, let's put it in perspective. If ANWR were the size of a football field, the area we are talking about drilling in would be the size of a postage stamp on the football field. The footprint we drill in would be relatively small. Oil and gas companies

want to do it in an environmentally sound way. And some experts say we could produce at least 2 million barrels a day out of ANWR. We were importing almost that much from Saddam Hussein and Iraq before the war happened. We could lessen that.

It is ridiculous that we depend so much on countries that have been hostile to the United States on something that is so important.

But when we look at energy policy, we need to look at it from a multi-pronged approach. We need to look at all of the oil, gas and coal. They are here to stay for the time being. But we need to look at alternative energy sources as well. I think everybody agrees that is important.

We need real solutions. We need real energy policy in this country, and we are not getting it from the Democrat-controlled Congress. We have worked hard and Congressman SHIMKUS has worked hard in the committee to get these things done, but they stifle them every time. We need real solutions to real problems, and this is a problem that if we don't address relatively soon, it is going to come home to roost. It is a national security issue. We are putting ourselves in jeopardy, and it is wrong. It is the wrong thing to do.

Again, I commend Congressman SHIMKUS for all he does on the Energy and Commerce Committee and for doing this special order tonight.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague, and especially for again returning the focus to the national security dynamics of this.

The United States Air Force is the number one consumer of aviation fuel in the world. What are they asking for? They want a safe, reliable supply of aviation fuel. Reliable. The only way they are going to get a reliable supply of aviation fuel is if that aviation fuel is produced by a commodity product where we are not relying on importation. That goes back to this debate on coal-to-liquid technologies.

Again, just in the Illinois coal basin alone, 250 years worth, as much energy as Saudi Arabia has in crude oil, just the Illinois coal basin alone. We are not talking about the Wyoming-Montana coal basin or the West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky region. We are talking about the Illinois coal basin has as much energy as Saudi Arabia has in oil.

So as we go back to the coal-to-liquid debate and we are talking about national security, and we need to have the fuel to fly our war machines, coal, locally discovered, developed, brought to the surface, with a coal-to-liquid refinery, built by the building trades, operated by organized labor and our boilermaker friends, high-paying wages, good benefits, not on the coastal plain, in the Midwest, pipeline to, and this chart just happens to show an F-18 Tomcat, a United States Air Force fighter plane.

□ 2030

Our Air Force is asking for this for national security, a reliable source of jet fuel, and we continue to delay.

What's the other world doing? What's the other countries, other world doing?

Well, Russia is attempting to grab a vast chunk of the Arctic to claim to its vast potential oil, gas and mineral wells to fuel that country's economy. Russia's going after fossil fuels.

Well, what's our other friends doing?

Brazil, Russia, India and China have overtaken the United States in dominating the global energy industry, according to a study by Goldman Sachs.

What's the Chinese doing? China is building 40 nuclear plants in the next 15 years. 40. We'll be lucky to have one. One. No carbon emissions in a nuclear power plant. Zero.

I think that's the biggest frustration that a lot of us have from our friends on the environmental left. They don't like nuclear power. They don't like coal. They don't like crude oil. We're trying to find out what they like.

China is planning 40 nuclear power plants in the next 15 years, and I pray that we have one. I would be ecstatic to have four. There's no way we'll have 15. There's just no way. The United States has not licensed one nuclear power plant in 30 years, not one, due to my friends on the other side's continued opposition to nuclear power.

We could bring nuclear power legislation to the floor in this Congress. And it would have bipartisan support. All the Republicans would support it. Well, we might lose about three. And I bet we could grab 40 Democrats that would support it. I bet we could have a bipartisan majority vote on coal-to-liquid technologies. I'd bet it'd be the same. We'd have all the Republicans minus a handful, and we'd get about 40 Democrat votes. But this Democrat leadership will not bring a bill to the floor that addresses the supply debate.

China opened new domestic energy reserves in 2004 and has planned to increase production by about 8 billion barrels by 2010.

Democrats refuse to allow American workers to produce American oil. In fact, in the energy debate last year, not the final bill that passed, but the two that didn't get signed into law, they put another area of natural gas off limits.

We need increased supply. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that if you want lower prices, you have to have more supply. We don't get any help.

China's increasing offshore energy production to reduce its own dependence on foreign oil. Let me say that, because I've got some friends over there who live on the coast. China is increasing offshore energy production. In fact, we know just 50 miles off of Florida, 50 miles, it's not a U.S. energy company or a U.S. energy exploration to go after the oil in the Gulf 50 miles off Miami. It's China. China has better access to our oil reserves on the Outer

Continental Shelf than we have. Isn't that crazy?

China's increasing offshore energy production to reduce its own dependence on foreign oil, growing that production at an average of 15.3 percent per year, with plans to make offshore oil production China's largest source of oil by doubling production by 2010.

And we know what happens any time we talk about offshore exploration, a counting of gas and oil reserves, just trying to figure out what's there we have a fight.

China invested \$24 billion in large scale coal liquefaction technologies. Oh, that sounds familiar. Coal-to-liquid technologies.

The United States, what are we doing? Zip, zero, nada, nothing.

What's China doing? China invested \$24 billion in large scale coal liquefaction technology. We can't get a vote on that on the floor. China's expanding its natural gas infrastructure by constructing pipelines. We can't get a pipeline bill moved.

China rapidly is expanding its refining capacity. Democrats have repeatedly voted against expanding American refinery capacity. In fact, one of the huge problems we have, which I find is really—I think people understand that we import crude oil. We're relying on imported crude oil and that's bad.

What the public, I think, would even get angrier at is we import refined product. We import gasoline. So not only, we lose the refining jobs. It would be better for us to import the crude oil and refine that crude oil, or at least we'd have our friends in the refining industry, many of those bargaining unit employees would have jobs. But we are importing refined product. Criminal negligence.

China is ambitiously developing its nuclear power industry with plans to spend approximately \$50 billion on 30 additional nuclear reactors within the next 15 years. China is planning on constructing many new large scale hydroelectric projects over the forecast period, including the 18.2 gigawatt Three Gorges dam project, which is scheduled to be operational by 2009.

In fact, we're tearing down dams. We're not expanding hydroelectric power. 50 percent of the electricity we use is produced by coal in this country. 50 percent. 20 percent by nuclear power, 20 percent by hydroelectric, and the rest the others.

I'm going to move to the concern. With no plan to address this problem, which is the escalating costs of crude oil, again, when Speaker PELOSI took over, \$58 a barrel, crude oil.

I'll be honest. Bush took over it was \$27. I always say that. Bush it was \$27, PELOSI, \$58, now \$111. With all the promises, and maybe I'll just read those one more time as I end.

But the basic premise is, under Democrat leadership of the House, the average American is paying more. We're paying more. We're going to pay more in taxes. We know that. But this isn't

a special order on taxes. This is a special order on energy.

We're paying more at the pump. Here's the reason why. The high cost of a barrel of crude oil, we're relying on imported crude oil. One solution would be technology. Another would be to move into electric cars. But guess what? Electric cars need an electric supply. They'll need nuclear power plants. They'll need coal generating, coal, then the electricity generation plants buy coal. There's going to be, we have to have something to charge the batteries to allow these battery-run cars to run.

Let's talk a minute about global climate change. We know that the public is paying more at the pump when the Democrat majority promised lower prices. That's a given.

We had a hearing in the subcommittee last week. My issue to the panelists was, the American public, they need to understand that if we address global climate change there is going to be a cost.

Of course, some on the environmental left said no. We're going to have all these efficiencies. We're going to have all these new jobs. It's going to be a wash.

Well, it's funny, flying home, an AP story on the 12th, the State of California is going to put on the electrical bill, a 25 or 30 percent surcharge on customers' electric and gas bills for global climate change. So your electricity bills are going to go up. Gas prices are up. Electricity prices are up. You're going to pay more in taxes.

This is bitter change, bitter change, not good change. Bitter change. Bitter change for the average American who all they want to do is go to work and pay their bills, take care of their family, try to save some for the future. They can't save with these high energy prices.

And you saw the independent truckers, the article I held up.

If we could have effective change, let's assume that we do all we can as Americans to lead the way, go through all this pain. Do you really believe that our Chinese friends, after I gave all the stats on what they're doing, are going to comply with an international agreement? Not only do I not believe it, they've told me no. And I've mentioned this in many committee hearings.

In fact, the senior Chinese official said twice to two of my Democratic colleagues' questions when they said, if the United States led, would you agree to an international agreement to coal carbon?

And their answer was, you all have had, well they didn't use you all. That's kind of a Southern Illinois thing. They said, you have had 200 years to develop a middle class in your country using fossil fuels, and it's our turn. That doesn't sound like a country that wants to address carbon debate in an international arena.

So should Americans, should we go through all this pain on global climate

change, and have no gain? Do we go through all this exercise, all these job dislocations, all this pain, for not one single benefit?

And if we do, you know, I just want us to be transparent with our citizens. Intellectually honest. Chairman DINGELL said, you know, if we want to be honest with the American people, what we should do is put 50 cents additional tax on gasoline and take that money, and address our carbon debate.

Well, that works great. That now takes \$3.50 a gallon of gas, which people are outraged about, and brings it up to \$4. And it's going to get to \$4 without the additional 50 cent tax. But at least it's intellectually honest, saying that there's going to be a cost.

The California Public Utility Commission is honest. 25 to 30 percent increase on your energy bill for climate change. Great.

Well, it wasn't a front-page story. It was, I don't know, I ripped it up. I think it was, like, the Business Section, like D6, way in the back. So I'm not sure if it made the front page of the California papers, but that's what their public utility commission has agreed to do.

All pain, no gain. The public needs to know the cost and be prepared to assume the cost.

All I see in this debate on energy is bitter change, bitter change for the working men and women of this country. This is contrary to the promises made.

April 24, 2006, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices." Bring down skyrocketing gas. They weren't even skyrocketing then compared to what we have now. Now we've got skyrocketing gas prices.

Majority Leader STENY HOYER said, "Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices."

Y'all did more? You raised gas prices even more.

Democratic Whip JIM CLYBURN said, "House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices."

□ 2045

No energy plan is a plan to fail. We go from \$58.31 a barrel of crude oil to today, \$111.

Now, I got these on little, kind of like a Blue Dog type of thing. I got this on a moveable type of a number system here. So that if it goes up, I can add. If it goes down, I can adjust. But the reality is, the spread, under the leadership of this House, has only gone up. And I believe, and the economists today believe, it will continue to go up.

We can do better. We can do better. I talked to many of my friends on the other side. I actually voted for CAFE language. That was a hard thing for me to do. Helped expand the renewable fuel standard. Brought biodiesel and ethanol into the national energy debate. That's all good stuff. Energy Star provisions. Electricity savings provisions.

We want the deployment of solar cells. We want wind power. As I mentioned earlier, Illinois could be at the forefront of electricity generation by wind.

What we do know, Texas had to call their high electricity users when their wind turbines stopped turning because the wind stopped blowing. That's the challenge of renewable energy. Instead of having a consistent base-load energy, and in this country it's undisputed that coal is the primary commodity product that produces 50 percent of the electricity generation in this country. The electricity we're using in the Capitol building tonight is produced by coal. The electricity on the Capitol grounds is produced by coal.

There are some of my friends on the other side that would like us to not use another ounce of fossil fuels ever in this country. I am afraid of those days because those days will only occur when there's another worldwide recession. And you want to see the pain and the agony and the frustration on the middle- and the lower-middle class of our country, wait till there's no jobs. We won't be putting carbon in the air. That will be good for some people, but we won't be employing our citizens either. And that will be a shame.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me this time. I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman GARRETT and Congressman SULLIVAN, for joining me in a plea to my friends on the other side that, as we continue to talk about energy, we don't disregard the supply debate. That's got to be part of the solution. It just has to be because just so much of the electricity that we use today is based upon 50 percent coal, 20 percent nuclear, 20 percent hydroelectric. They have to be part of the mix. It's my plea that, as we move forward and try to address the high cost of electricity and liquid fuel, we remember the great resources that we have in this country and have a plan to use them.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, before I begin, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity that has been given to us by Speaker PELOSI tonight to talk about an issue that is affecting literally mil-

lions of families across America, and that is the lack of affordable child care and early childhood education. It is especially important to highlight these issues as this week marks the Week of the Young Child.

For the next hour, we're going to focus on young children and how, over the last 7 years, we have failed to provide adequate and necessary funding for vital child care and early childhood education.

And I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that as a mother of three young children—I have 8-year-old twins and an almost 5-year-old, 4½-year-old little girl—this is something that is near and dear to my heart.

I remember the struggle that I went through when I first gave birth to my twins and had to go back to work, and we searched and searched for a quality child care program. We were turning our newborn babies, 3 months old, 4 months old, over to really, basically, someone we didn't know, someone to care for our little ones all day long. You know, we just couldn't even imagine turning over the care of our babies, our most precious resource, we couldn't imagine turning over our babies to anyone.

So you can imagine the struggle that people go through when, on top of having to decide where they can take their children to be cared for while they work, that they also have to struggle through the angst of not knowing or not expecting that they can afford that care. And because we have continued to slash and burn from this administration the funding for Head Start and for the Child Care Development Block Grants programs, we absolutely wanted to come to the floor tonight and spend an hour, at least an hour, highlighting the needs that children in this country have, and particularly those of working families. And I'm going to be joined tonight by several of my colleagues.

Before we begin, though, I do want to recognize and thank our good friend, Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee, and Chairman KILDEE, DALE KILDEE, for their leadership and their commitment to child care issues and education, as well as the Head Start and Child Care Development Block Grant Program funding. These are all programs that are near and dear to their hearts, and a number of these Members have submitted statements.

We just have to highlight that there are children, especially those from low-income families, that need better access to high-quality early childhood programs. Across the Nation, Madam Speaker, child care fees average from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year which exceed the cost of public universities in most States. Yet nationally, only one in seven children who are financially eligible for child care subsidies is being served. One in seven.

And at this time, I would like to turn the podium over to a champion for America's children, the voice in this

body that is consistently there for those who have no voice. She is the current Chair of the Woman's Caucus, Congressman LOIS CAPPs of California.

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of the Week of the Young Child. I want to thank our colleague from Florida, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, who is such a good role model, and often-times her children are here, and they give testimony to the fact that working moms can be successful parents as well as wonderful professionals in this business that we're in.

And I'm pleased to be with some of my colleagues, MAZIE HIRONO and JASON ALTMIRE and others who may join us, to call attention to the importance of the Week of the Young Child. My daughter and her dearest friend, whom she met in preschool, are visiting and taking part in this; and it's a testimony to the importance of those early years and some life-long friendships that can result as a result of that.

As we celebrate this important week, I want to take the opportunity to highlight two very critical programs which our colleague has already mentioned that are so important to young children: The Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, and Head Start. As someone who has spent most of my life working with our kids in our public schools, I know firsthand the power and the importance of these programs for both our kids and our families.

Due to the realities and demands of today's family life, there are many young people, many children who are left with too much unstructured time, and we know the hours right after school are the most dangerous and important hours of the day.

Unfortunately, parents are working longer hours and often have to leave their children in the care of their siblings or others who should not have to have the responsibility to do this. Child care can often be the second highest cost in the family budget. Sometimes, it's the highest. Child care costs consume roughly 42 percent of the median single parent's family income, at around \$10,000 annually.

With a growing home mortgage crisis and stagnant economic outlook, parents cannot afford this. It's simply a matter that is of dire consequence to many of our families today.

Child care and development block grants enable 162,000 children a month in California to receive adequate child care. As the only source of Federal funding to subsidize child care for low-income families, CCDBG has life-changing effects on thousands of families in California and therefore needs our full support.

Unfortunately, this program has been level funded for 6 years, and that is why I'm fully supporting an \$874 million increase in CCDBG. This funding would restore the program to an adequate level and provide child care to an additional 39,400 children in California

alone. And as you can see from the chart here, there are children all across this country standing in line, waiting in line.

One of the largest circles, if not the largest circle, is the one that designates California where 207,000 children today are standing in line waiting for child care. And you know, we know children don't stand in line. They don't stay. It is not status quo for children. They miss an opportunity. There's a black hole. There's a gap in what they need for their development, and that time goes away, and it never will come back to them.

This investment that we need to make here will not only result in boosting children's social development and their school readiness but results in stable and productive employment among parents. The biggest worry that parents have on the job is what's happening to their children at home. The biggest obstruction to their doing their job well is the worry and the constant concern about where their children are and how they're being cared for.

Providing the resources for children will help these parents gain promotions in their job and do a better work product for their employers.

Additionally, an early childhood education provides a foundation necessary for the child's educational future. For four decades, Head Start programs have so successfully provided early education, health care, social service and parental involvement support for low-income children and their families. This is a proven program. It's tested. It's tried. It has succeeded for over the generations, and we know that this program works. It is one of the most cost-effective ways we can use tax dollars. The program helps children start their education ready to succeed.

So much of education is focused on closing achievement gaps, and I believe Head Start is one of the best tools to do that because it starts at the front end before the gaps widen. Sadly, Head Start has received only modest funding increases over the past 7 years. Without an increase, thousands of children could lose access to Head Start because of inflation. The program is fundamental to the education success of thousands of children. We know that, and yet the program can only serve roughly half of the children who are eligible.

I know, I believe I have seen it firsthand; Head Start gives all children the opportunity to succeed in school and therefore in life. And I fully support a \$1.072 billion increase for this vital program. Our children deserve this support.

And now it is my pleasure to relinquish my time to my colleagues who will carry this debate in this hour of conversation forward, and I'm so honored to be amongst them and to know that we are speaking for others in our Congress as well who know that this is the time to act on these matters.

I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank Congresswoman CAPPS. You have just been an incredible leader on the issues that are important to women and young families, and it is so incredibly important in this Week of the Young Child that we have a leader like Congresswoman CAPPS, the Chair of the Women's Caucus, who has been such a stalwart on the issues that are important to young women and families; and it's just a pleasure to have her join us on the floor today.

It is also a pleasure to have such a committed and passionate and compassionate father serving in the House of Representatives with us from Pennsylvania, a wonderful father of two young daughters and someone who has done an incredible job since he's joined the Congress after the 2006 election, Congressman JASON ALTMIRE of Pennsylvania.

□ 2100

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentlewoman. And I did want to say about our colleague from California, there are a lot of advocates for children and for young families in this Congress, and a lot of us are passionate about those issues, but there is no one who has done more advocacy and has worked harder than Congresswoman CAPPS, and so I want to thank her for her comments.

I was in my office and I heard that this Special Order was beginning. And the gentlewoman knows the passion that I bring to the table to these issues. Early childhood education is something I have always talked about. I am a member of a board that is not even in my district. There is an organization far outside my district called the Heritage Health Foundation in a town called Braddock, Pennsylvania, and they sponsor an early childhood education center called the For Kids Center. And it's been in existence long enough that you can see the fruits of the labor there. You can see children that have come through the program, that have had access to early childhood education, and compare them to this community that has fallen on hard times, students and children that have not had access at the same level to early childhood education. And what you find is that the students who have gone through the For Kids Center, the early childhood center and have had access to those services test three grade levels ahead of their peers when you test peer to peer.

Early childhood education works, there is no question about it. And the dollars that we reinvest into the system are paid back many times over in the dividends that they pay in the grade levels and testing better and the performance throughout their school, and they get into less trouble and the kids perform better academically. It all builds upon itself.

So when I was elected to Congress, as the gentlewoman said, in 2006, one of the first things you have to do is

choose what committee you're going to serve on. And I knew right away that I wanted to serve on the Education Committee because I wanted to work on the Head Start Reauthorization. That's one of the first things out of the gate that that committee was tasked with doing. I was involved with the Head Start Reauthorization, and we were able to get that through Congress because everyone should be able to agree on the need for early childhood education.

In Pennsylvania, we have 7,529 children that are standing in line for child care. In the chart that the congresswoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) showed, you can see Pennsylvania; 7,529 children that should have access to child care and early education services, but don't.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her friendship and her leadership. As she mentioned, I do have two young daughters, and I can see the value of these services. I just wish that everyone in this country could have access to the same services that we have access to. I thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to address the House tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. ALTMIRE. And thank you for your leadership and for giving your time in public service to make sure that the next generation is well represented here in the halls of Congress.

It is incredibly important and so beneficial to the issues important to working families to have parents of young children serving in the Congress, having moms and dads who are living and dealing with these issues every day. We've got to make sure that we have their voice represented strongly in this House of Representatives.

And now it's my privilege to turn the mic over to my good friend who represents the beautiful islands of Hawaii, the gentlewoman from Hawaii, MAZIE HIRONO.

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentlelady from Florida for her leadership on issues important to our young people, and for yielding some time to me.

I know that you mentioned mothers and fathers. Well, grandparents, too, because I'm a step-grandparent and I have a wonderful step-daughter who has two young children. So these are issues near and dear to all of us.

As we commemorate the Week of the Young Child, I rise today in strong support of quality early childhood education, and tonight, in particular, for increased funding for Head Start and the Child Care and Development block grants, two Federal programs supporting our youngest children.

Congress got it right when it created Head Start 43 years ago. This is an example of a government program that families depend on every day and that really works, thanks largely to the many talented and dedicated teachers throughout our Nation.

I want to take a moment to commemorate the life of one such teacher,

Mrs. Leona Stevens, who served as the lead teacher at several Maui Head Start centers for over 15 years. She passed away unexpectedly recently and will be deeply missed by all of us.

Mrs. Stevens was known for valuing students' creativity and continually asked them, "why do you think that?" and "what do you think will happen?" She was equally passionate about improving the quality of Head Start by training new early education teachers and furthering her own education. She went back to school to get her associates degree in early childhood education and spent 7 years working in partnership with Maui Community College to train new Head Start teachers.

Last year, while Leona was mentoring new young teachers, Congress worked hard to pass the Head Start Reauthorization bill, which was signed into law. The bill made many improvements to this program, but the single most important thing we did was to increase the amount of money authorized for Head Start.

Of course we all know the difference between authorized levels and appropriated levels. This year, we must put our money where our mouth is. The fact is, only half of all eligible children are served by Head Start, and a measly 3 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are served by early Head Start. This means hundreds of thousands of low-income families are without access to high-quality early education opportunities for their children.

Speaker PELOSI hosted a summit for America's children last year in which we heard from neuroscientists, police chiefs, business leaders, all of whom told us in unequivocal language that it pays to invest in children before they turn six. I chaired a hearing on early education in the full Education and Labor Committee earlier this year, and we heard the same message from State level advocates and policy makers.

I talk to parents, Kindergarten teachers and business leaders in Hawaii every time I go home, and they tell me that we must increase access to high-quality early education and child care opportunities. Why? Because that is the best investment that we can make in our young children and in our country's future.

Certainly this year, like every other year, Congress will face many difficult spending decisions. We will fund our veterans and troops, fund health and alternative energy research, fund our public schools. I will support increases in all of these things, but this is not a zero sum game and we cannot afford to let our youngest children slip through the cracks.

We should increase funding for Head Start by at least \$1 billion and increase funding for CCDBG by \$874 million. It is a matter of fairness. Every child deserves a shot at success. We know, however, that many children from low-income families start Kindergarten with half the vocabulary of their wealthier peers. High-quality preschool can do much to close this gap.

It is a matter, also, of economic prosperity. Our small business community, our science and technology community all need educated workers. Low-income children who go to a high-quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school than their peers that did not go to preschool.

Finally, it is a smart investment of Federal dollars. Research shows that every dollar invested in high-quality early education programs returns somewhere between \$2 and \$17. Even at the very low end of that spectrum, it is a worthwhile investment.

Parents, police officers, business owners and teachers across Hawaii and the rest of the country are asking us to make children a priority. I know that Maui's beloved Mrs. Stevens would join them. I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to provide real increases to these vital programs.

And I close by saying that the working people of Hawaii, we have a much higher percentage of working parents, working single parents than probably any other State in the country, and that is because the cost of living is very high in Hawaii. I've talked to the many mothers and fathers and grandparents who take care of their grandchildren now of how important it is for their kids and their grandchildren to have a good start in life. And certainly one of the best ways for them to get a good start in life is to make sure that we continue to support Head Start and the other grant programs that will give them this chance.

I yield back to my colleague from Florida and thank her for her continuing leadership on these and so many other issues.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Congresswoman HIRONO. You have been an incredible leader when it comes to the issues that are important to working families.

I often think about the constituents that you represent. We make public policies so far away from the people that you represent; they need a strong voice all the more for that reason, and you have done an amazing job representing them. It's a pleasure and an honor to serve with you here.

Ms. HIRONO. Same here. Thank you very much.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, to continue on with the highlighting of the Week of the Young Child, there are statistics that are incredibly important, and I will go through some of those this evening. But more important than the statistics and the studies are the stories. And I can tell you, as a mom with young children, who I probably will talk about quite a bit this evening, you don't need studies, you don't need statistics to be able to see the progress that your child makes when they go through a preschool, when they go through a childcare program. And you can see their brain literally working like sponges, absorbing the informa-

tion and processing it and turning it into useful information. And I can tell you that I've seen my children, my four-and-a-half-year-old is still in pre-K and is just about to enter Kindergarten next year. And I've watched her learn her ABCs, she can count to 100, she knows every color, every shape. And had she not had an opportunity to go to a wonderful preschool program to learn those things, yes, I could have spent time with her and taught her those things, but given that I work full-time, and when I think about the hundreds of thousands, millions of parents who have to struggle with that choice, and then an administration that callously cuts those programs or flat funds them so that fewer, not more, parents have access to Head Start and child care, it's just absolutely unconscionable. I wonder if they have a soul. I wonder if there is anyone in the White House that has a soul and that has a heart. Because surely those kinds of decisions are only made by heartless people.

I am so glad to be joined by the gentlewoman from New York, a wonderful Member, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE. And I am glad that she has also joined me tonight.

Before I turn it over to her, I want to highlight a story of Jennifer from Chicago because, like I said, highlighting the stories as opposed to the studies and the stats is what really shows you the kind of impact that the policy decisions that we make up here when it comes to funding child care programs and Head Start adequately, that's what really matters.

I want to talk about Jennifer from Chicago, who was profiled in a news story on Marketplace radio. Jennifer works as a receptionist at a real estate company. She is a single mom working full-time and going to school part-time. And so many people will hear their own story in Jennifer's story.

Jennifer was doing all she could to improve her life and the life of her daughter. In fact, even though Jennifer was working full-time, raising her daughter on her own and going to school part-time, she impressed her boss so much with her work that she was given a small raise. And then, Jennifer ran into a big problem. With the raise that she got, she could no longer qualify for assistance with the Illinois child care program that she had been using. She literally had such a dramatic shift in what she had to pay for her daughter's child care, it went from \$2,000 to \$9,000 a year just by that small increase in her salary, and that small increase in her salary caused the \$9,000 that she then had to pay, that was 40 percent of her salary, just from the small raise that she got. Her only option at that point was to send her 5-year-old daughter to live with the girl's father a couple of hours away in Indiana. So she had to either give up her job or give up her daughter. But if she gave up her job, she wouldn't be able to care for her daughter, Mr.

Speaker. So obviously this is a situation that was not working.

So Jennifer, this is just so sad, she had to go back to her boss and actually ask him for a demotion. She had to ask him to cut her pay by about \$100 per paycheck so that she could be eligible for the subsidized child care again so that she could get her daughter back. That was the choice that she was faced with, and it was just awful. I can't even imagine. That meant that her income would again qualify for the child care assistance, and then she immediately applied for it.

So the transition from paying a co-payment to paying the full cost of care is what Illinois Action for Children calls "the cliff." People like Jennifer, they fall off the cliff. And we actually penalize people like Jennifer who work hard to try to get ahead. We tell them no, you can't work your way up.

We can't continue to hold these people back. We have got to make sure that we help these people pursue these dreams, advance themselves, be able to improve the quality of their children's education, improve their own lot in life and their family's lot in life, not give them a choice between giving up their children or pursuing a better opportunity in life.

And Ms. CLARKE, the National Women's Law Center says that only one in seven U.S. children are eligible for Federal child care help; only one in seven of those kids get it. And in the view of the National Women's Law Center, all these programs for Head Start and child care have never been fully funded by the Federal Government.

I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman. Thank you for joining us today.

Ms. CLARKE. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her leadership on this issue, and at the advent of the Week of the Young Child, that we would take this time to really put things in focus.

You know, every time I go home to my district on the weekends there is a particular constituent of mine that no matter where he sees me, we say something to each other. He started this when I was running for office. And he said to me, "Yvette, if you ever get elected, remember the children."

□ 2115

Every time I run into the gentleman, he says the same thing to me over and over, and now that's how we greet each other: "Remember the children." And while we're going through all of the challenges that we are facing in day-to-day life as adults, remembering the children is probably the most poignant message that we could give to this administration and, quite frankly, give to our constituencies and to this Nation. The investment we make in our youngest, most vulnerable today will be the difference in where this Nation will be in the next decade, the next score, the next 100 years. And the short-

sightedness for so long in providing the real resource and support that our families need, that our parents need, that our mothers need, to give their children really what I believe they should be entitled to, because as you've stated already this evening, the science point to it. The earlier that we begin the education process for our children, the more advantaged they are. In communities of color, that means closing the gap, the achievement gap. We know this. It's well documented. Science backs it up. Yet the will, the will to really address this issue is really what we are addressing this evening.

And when we think about the fact that we were innovative enough to know that creating a Child Care and Development Block Grant was important, that's fluff with no substance when there's no funding to it.

And I have been very fortunate. I kind of grew up in the day care movement. Many people know my mother as a former councilwoman. But even prior to that, she started her career, one part of her career, let me put it that way, because she is the renaissance woman, but one of my earliest recollections of my mom and the work that she did was being a teacher's aide in a classroom in an early childhood education center. Some people call them day care centers. But I saw the certified teachers in the classroom. I saw the nutritious meals, the educational curricula that were developed just for these students. So I know better. I know that these are early childhood education.

She worked her way up from being a teacher's aide to an assistant teacher and then to a full class teacher. She then went on to become a day care director and then became a supervisor of several day care centers within our city's extensive child care system.

So the thousands, if not tens of thousands of lives that I've seen personally touched by an early childhood education experience, we can't put a dollar figure on it. These are young people who I run into today that say, "I used to go to your mom's day care; I'm now a doctor." "I used to in your mom's day care; I'm now a teacher." "I used to be in your mom's day care; can I write you a check?" I'm like, all right, that's really worth it. That's really worth it.

And I make light of it, but it's really up to us, the 110th Congress, to really push the envelope where this is concerned. This is where the rubber meets the road. We find ourselves in some really challenging times when it comes to workforce, workforce demands, the individuals who will be future employees. And we have talked about the challenge of our public school systems and truly adequately educating our students and our scholars when we have this opportunity right now to make it clear that we do stand for the education of our children. We do stand for providing for young children this opportunity to get that head start in life.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Reclaiming my time, you made a reference to your mom and the wonderful quality of care that she provided to the children that she cared for over the years. And then, of course, she made hiring decisions as she moved up the ladder and became a child care director. Your comments about your mom's involvement with improving the lives of children in those programs made me think about finding the information on providers' salaries because it is horrendous that we are actually cutting the funding for these programs for the kids themselves and that only one in seven kids are eligible. But listen to the statistics about how much the providers, the teachers, are actually paid:

The average Head Start teacher's salary, and, now, that's Head Start, not child care. We are talking about two separate programs here tonight so that people understand me because these acronyms get thrown around a whole lot in Washington. We have the Head Start program, which is the high-quality education program that subsidizes and provides high-quality preschool education for young kids who are income eligible, and then there's the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, which is a subsidized child care program that is funded around the States and there's a Federal-State match for.

So the average Head Start teacher's salary varies by the teacher's education. So if you have what's called a child development associate's, which is the first rung on the ladder in terms of an education credential, not a certified teacher but you have a lot of hours of course work that you've taken, an average Head Start teacher with a CDA gets paid about \$21,000. If you have an associate's degree, so now you've got a 2-year college degree, you get \$22,500. If you have a baccalaureate degree, that is a full-blown college degree, you make about \$27,000 in the Head Start program. Now, the average teacher's salary, who also get hired with a baccalaureate degree, is about \$48,000, \$49,000. So a Head Start teacher, depending on their education credential, makes between \$21,000 and \$27,000 a year. I mean that is just unbelievable.

Ms. CLARKE. It really is, if the gentleman will yield.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. I just wanted to insert that.

Ms. CLARKE. I think it's a very important point because one of the challenges that our very extensive public day care system is experiencing in the city of New York is the stress between being a certified teacher in the public day care center, the salaries received there, versus maybe a couple more course credits and going into the straight into the public schools that calling for more teachers, more qualified teachers, certified teachers, and so we see a bleeding of the system. We went through a very extensive time of advocacy, activism to really mobilize for early childhood education, for day

care, for working parents, for working mothers, and now we are seeing an erosion, all a reaction to a lot of what we have seen in terms of the cuts. So in New York City, where we have had this longstanding system of over 330 day care centers throughout the five boroughs that employ almost 6,000 caregivers, we're seeing day care closings.

And that doesn't mean the demand is gone. The demand continues. The waiting list continues in perpetuity. There will be some children who won't get this opportunity. They will be disadvantaged.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It's not that the need is not there.

Ms. CLARKE. That's right.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Is it really that if the funding is not there, then these centers can't afford to stay open?

Ms. CLARKE. That's right. So there are some real challenges that we have to look squarely in the eye. And we have to ask ourselves what about the children? How are we preparing ourselves to sacrifice as a society to make sure that in 10 years, in 20 years, in 30 years, we are one of the most competitive nations in the world? We're struggling with those answers and trying to balance it all out now, but it begins with an investment that we make in our young.

And what we are seeing in terms of these cuts and in terms of the rhetoric coming from the Bush Administration do not bode well, notwithstanding all of what we hear about his care and his concern for the families of our Nation.

Put the money for the mouth is. That's what I say. Put the money where the mouth is. We want to expand and institutionalize early childhood education so that the United States is, indeed, the most competitive when it comes to development of our scientists and development of our engineers and development of those who will have to compete globally as our economy continues to morph with young scholars coming from other nations who have decided, notwithstanding their GDPs, to invest in the education of their children.

And so I just wanted to stop in and share some of my experience with you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and to say to my colleagues that we have to stand up. This is a critical issue, and as we reflect on the week of the young child, it is important that we not forget that they come from a community of families, and those families are struggling. They need to be able to be at the job on time. They need to be able to know that their children are safe and in a wholesome environment while they are at work. And that's what these child care centers and these early childhood education environments create for the children and for their parents: a sense of relief and a sense of well-being both for the child and the family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. And I want to thank you so much for coming down and joining me tonight.

What we have been trying to do is highlight the consequences to these horrendous policymaking decisions. And I talked about Jennifer a few minutes ago and what her situation is like. Some of my colleagues from the various States that are represented on this chart mentioned their own States' statistics this evening. But I want to give a fuller picture of what the real consequences are to not funding adequately Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants. So this is what it looks like in my State, Ms. CLARKE: In my State of Florida, nearly 45,000 children are standing in line for child care. In other words, we have got almost 45,000 kids in my State who are eligible for child care, but they can't get it because we're not funding it adequately, I mean simply because we are not providing enough funds.

I mean what are we spending it on? What is more important? Like you said, the gentleman that you said says the same refrain every single time, "remember the children," that's what it is all about.

I remember being pregnant with my twins and people telling me throughout my pregnancy, Oh, DEBBIE, you're life is going to change. Just wait. You're not going to believe it. You never imagined that you could care about something so much as when you give birth to your kids. And you sort of nod and smile, and you tell them, sure, you can imagine what it's going to be like. Well, you can't imagine. You can't imagine what it's going to be like until you have them. And that's what everybody tells you. You can't imagine that you could care and love something more than when you give birth to your children. And you would do anything to make sure that they were okay, that they had the best possible life that they could have.

And when parents who are struggling to make sure that they can put food on the table, that they can pay the mortgage, not have the house foreclosed on, make sure that they can have time to go to their job, but, at the same time, have a high-quality child care situation so that they don't have to worry about the one or two or three or however many kids they have that they care more about than anything in the world, what it is this administration doing? Cutting the funding for our most precious resource.

So it's not just Florida. It's not just New York. There are 207,000 kids in California on a waiting list.

How about Georgia? Georgia, Ms. CLARKE, that actually has a pre-K program funded by the lottery, which is supposed to provide a pre-K education to all the 4 year olds in that State, and there are only 6 million people in the State of Georgia as it is, there are 24,808, almost 25,000 kids on the waiting list for child care that they qualify for. In North Carolina almost 18,000 kids are on the waiting list, 15,000 in Texas, 207,000 in California. Those are kids that don't have access to child care who are eligible.

□ 2130

Nationwide, it is 365,604 children who are waiting in line for child care. And what do those parents do? What do they do? They have to choose between working. If they don't work, how are they going to put food on the table? How are they going to be able to live? Many of these parents have to choose between whether they are going to be able to hold on to their children or not. The angst that I feel in my heart even thinking about having to make a choice like that. There is no one that should have to make that choice. And that the government, their own government, would deprive them of the ability to care for their kids is just mind-boggling.

Ms. CLARKE. Would the gentlewoman yield a moment? Just think about the mobility of a family that is unable to have their child care subsidized, the time that it will take for them to be able to gain firm footing once their children now get into public schools. And then the challenges they may face with learning deficits, quite frankly, because there are children of means who are being given an opportunity to be in stimulating learning environments when some working class parents just can't afford it. And without the support that we can give, we are really handicapping. We are really tying the arms of these families and these communities. And we know that if we just give people a chance in this society, they can make the best of it. And that can make a difference from one generation to the next.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. And let's show people what we mean. And I know you have seen this information before. What we are talking about, when you describe the difference between a parent who can't decide to bring their child to a child care program because there is no money, they can't afford to pay for it, the Federal Government is slashing the funding for it so they don't have a slot funded for their child, even though they are eligible, what happens, like you said, is that you have the parents who can afford it when those kids get to public school, they have already been through several years of pre-kindergarten, and they arrive at school and start kindergarten at 5 years old ready to learn, which is what the goal of Head Start and these child care programs is. The Federal funding that we provide is designed to make sure those children get to school ready to learn.

And this is the correlation of funding from the Federal Government for child care and Head Start and brain development. We are literally funding it in the opposite direction from the way the brain grows and develops and when we provide funding. So here is when you have the most brain growth, and the most rapid brain growth and the most important point in a child's life for that brain growth, and we are funding it the most when we are well beyond the points that the child's brain

growth has not ceased, but certainly when it has slowed.

This chart should be inversed. We should be funding the highest percentage when the child's brain is developing at its earliest point between birth and 5 years old. But we are doing the opposite. It makes absolutely no sense. It really boggles my mind.

And that hurts. We are talking about real kids. I brought pictures of real children who are impacted by these decisions because I think we have to remember what we are talking about here. So often when we have discussions on the floor here, it becomes easy to become desensitized to the fact that we are talking about real people. These are real children who are being cared for. And I am going to tell their story in a little bit. But look at these beautiful children. And this is their caregiver. And I'm going to tell their story in a couple of minutes. But I just don't think it can be forgotten that every funding cut, every decision we make like this affects one of these precious babies. And I just can't even imagine how there is no heart in the White House. Although I shouldn't be shocked after almost 8 years of this administration. It is just unbelievable. We have got to make sure, and the reason that we are here tonight during the Week of the Young Child, is we have to make sure that we push in the next fiscal year, in fiscal year 2009, for an increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant funding the Head Start program. And Democrats have been fighting to make sure that we do that. We passed a wonderful Head Start bill. We have got to make sure that we reverse the lost ground that has occurred after 7 years of flat funding from this administration.

Ms. CLARKE. Would the gentlewoman yield a moment? It is an imperative. As I have said, since I've been on the Hill these past 15 months and have looked just about every crisis in the eye from mortgage foreclosure to the war in Iraq to you name it, education, health care, it all points back to the fact that we are at a specific juncture in our Nation's history that requires courage. And that means the courage to make the proper investments for the growth and development of our Nation.

There is no more worthy an investment for us to make than in these children, than our children, our Nation's children. They will be inheriting from us a millstone around their ankles if we don't do right by them today.

With the challenges that we are facing in terms of the debt build-up in this Nation, it is going to take a whole group of really smart people, really intelligent folk, who use the ingenuity of who we are as Americans to take us to the next level. That investment starts now. You can't invest it in me. It's too late for me. The investment is in our children.

So I thank the gentlelady again. This is a very important special order that we are here, we are at the advent of the

Week of the Young Child and that we are speaking out for those families that don't have a voice here, that don't have the high-paid lobbyists, that are really working every day, and they come home, they hug their babies and they just want an opportunity for that baby to succeed.

In many instances, those children are struggling like salmon swimming upstream in environments that are less than wholesome. And were they to be in an early childhood education setting, they would be sure to get a nutritious meal every day. They would have a loving caregiver that also is there to stimulate the growth of the intellect and the brain. And that is why these dollars that are requested, which are really not breaking the bank by any means, are so critical and can reap such dividends in the long run if we do right by them today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is the difference, literally, it's like when a baby is born, particularly to a working family that is not rolling in cash, that is literally struggling to put together their paychecks every month to meet their family's needs, it's like that baby's life begins on a crossroads. And we hold the key to which path they will end up on.

If we decide, like this administration, like the Bush administration has consistently decided during their time in office to cut the funding for child care, subsidized child care and for Head Start, then we are, not always, because there are kids that avoid it, but we are making it much more likely that the path that those kids travel down end up sending them more likely into a life of crime, potentially into an inability or decision not to graduate from high school. They end up dropping out. They make the wrong choices because they don't learn at the earliest stage how to make the right choices. They don't learn the basics. They don't have all the tools that they need to draw upon to be strong, to deal with life's challenges. This is not exaggeration. This is real.

Ms. CLARKE. The achievement gap is real. It is well-documented. And if these children had that Head Start, had the early childhood education, it closes the achievement gap by leaps and bounds. The clock to education doesn't start when we slide that child into the kindergarten door. There is so much more that goes into it. And I am a witness to what early childhood education can do. I have seen it for generations in New York, for working-class parents, parents that by no means are wealthy, but we had a period of time in our city's history where we understood that early childhood education was a critical component to not only helping working families but to giving those children that educational boost, that stimulating environment, that healthy and wholesome environment while their parents were at work.

There is nothing worse than a parent that has to worry about their child. We

hear these horrible stories about people who go to work and leave their child in a car, or worse leave it with a younger child that is then caught in a situation where harm comes to them. We need to be able to allay those types of fears for parents. And this is a win-win-win scenario, our investment in Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants. It's a win-win-win scenario.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is. And it's hard to imagine what's more important. Should we continue to spend \$14 million an hour in Iraq? Fourteen million dollars an hour is what we are spending in Iraq. Yet we can't come up with the funding that we need to make sure that all the kids in this country that are eligible for Head Start and for subsidized child care can actually go.

Ms. CLARKE. Or gentlelady, how about \$110,000 a year for a child in juvenile detention?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is unbelievable. So we are choosing to lock kids like that up and spend more money, much more money, than we would spend on them up front to make sure that they get the education and the early start and the building blocks for success that are so much less expensive, but are also just the right thing to do. But for the accident of your birth you should not be in a situation where some kids are getting those basics and other kids are thrown to the wolves. We have these programs so that we can equalize the situation in life for Americans.

Look, we live in a capitalistic society. And that is absolutely the economy that we all support and know and revere. And it has served us well through more than 200 years. But because we live in a capitalistic society, it does not mean that we should be throwing our children, our most vulnerable, to the wolves but for the accident of their birth.

Ms. CLARKE. What it is is the coming of age. Our economy is evolving in ways that generations before us could have never imagined. That means that we have to redouble our efforts when it comes to the education of our young. We have to come up with the winning strategies for Americans to be able to move our Nation forward. This is the way to go. This is the way to go.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You're absolutely right. I want to tell another story and highlight the impact on another family. We talked about the Head Start program. There are also child care providers who provide wonderful service in those subsidized child care programs. And we have had frozen Child Care and Development Block Grant funding that has led to stagnant and even decreasing reimbursement rates for providers who care for those children receiving subsidies.

In 2006, only nine States paid reimbursement rates that were on par with what the Federal Government recommends. And one of those results is there's an alarming 35 percent turnover

rate for child care providers because they can't afford to continue to work in that field.

And I want to tell the story of a young woman named Kelly Matthews. Kelly is a child care provider in Iowa City, Iowa. I want to read you Kelly's story in her own words, because this is how she described her situation.

She said, "You and I share something important in common. We both go to work each day with a grounded, deeply held belief that we do our chosen work for one very simple reason, to change the world."

And I know how many times I have said that the reason I do this job is to make the world a better place and to change the world. Kelly is right here with her kids in her program.

She said, "I don't work in the Halls of Congress, but in my home, caring for children in my Child Development Home in Iowa City. What other reason, aside from wishing to impact the future, could motivate someone to take on a job with modest pay, no benefits and no paid time off? This isn't about a 'job' for me. This is my profession, my chosen life's work. And it is an amazing gift I am given each day to partner with the families I serve."

□ 2145

"I have built my childcare program around the ideas of community, caring for each other, and falling in love with learning. I love this work because I have carefully crafted a program where kids succeed in all these areas in amazing ways: When Claire (at 18 months) already knows how to comfort a friend, when Trae (at 5 years old) can easily count and set out the right number of plates for his friends at the lunch table, when Lexi (at 3 years old) works hard to write the names of the members of her family, when Gus (at 3 years old) knows how to care for his things and the things that belong to others, or when two toddlers are already capable of working out a conflict in a peaceful way without an adult's intervention," what I wouldn't give for that in my house, "I know these children will be ready, not only for school, but just as importantly, for life. They will grow into adults that know how to take responsibility for themselves and how to care for others, how to problem solve and be creative in their endeavors, how to keep on trying, even when it is tricky."

She said, "I take this work seriously. Approximately 50 hours a week of my time with children in my home, plus all the additional hours of paperwork, supply shopping, continuing education, networking with my colleagues, and add to that total, developing and presenting hours of training to inspire other family childcare providers to constantly improve themselves and their programs. But for those of us committed to our professions and our vision of an inspired word, it is all in a day's work, isn't it?"

That is what Kelly Matthews, this wonderful woman with all her children

in her program around her, had to say about her work, and it is the reason that we are standing here on the floor tonight at the beginning of the Week of the Young Child.

I am so pleased that you have been able to join me, Ms. CLARKE, and I turn it over to you to close us out.

Ms. CLARKE. I think that your daycare provider has really said it all. I don't think there is a dollar value that can you truly put on the work that these women and men do with our youngest, most vulnerable ones. And they make that sacrifice. Wouldn't it be awesome if they were rewarded and our communities were rewarded and our families were rewarded with a government that responded and really put the funding in place, to not only raise the level, but to get rid of all of those waiting lists that we see. What a difference that would make in every one of our communities around this Nation.

Thank you very much for your commitment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, we think we have made a very strong case tonight at the beginning of the Week of the Young Child to make sure that there is a mandate for this Congress to increase the funding for Head Start, increase the funding for Child Care and Development Block Grants, and make sure that when those little babies are put on the crossroads of the path of their life, that we send them strongly down the right path so that they can have the best life that they can possibly have.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for organizing this Special Order.

Improved funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start are integral to every child having the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant enables 1.8 million children from more than 1 million families to receive child care and provides essential resources to help states improve the quality of that care. Reliable, high-quality child care supports parents' productive employment and helps children enter school ready to learn.

Head Start is our country's model for a successful comprehensive early learning program for low-income children. It combines early education, health care, social services, and nutrition services with a strong focus on parent involvement and support and builds on the strengths of local communities.

The bipartisan 2007 Head Start reauthorization, which I was proud to have introduced, included many positive provisions that will move the program forward by expanding access and enhancing quality. But, increased investment is critical to meeting those goals.

More than 100 of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, recently joined me to urge the Appropriations Committee to reverse the Administration's funding policies that have led to thousands fewer children attending Head Start than in 2002 and put 200,000 children at risk of losing child care assistance by 2009 without increased funding.

Whether or not America's most vulnerable young children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our investment in these programs.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an important program to my district and my state which has been consistently flat funded for the past seven years: the Head Start program. As you know, Head Start is an early childhood program with a proven track record of providing comprehensive developmental, educational, health, nutritional, and social services to low-income preschool children and their families, giving them the tools they need to succeed. By emphasizing parental involvement, Head Start also benefits the entire family and the broader community. For decades, Head Start has served thousands low-income children and their families in Utah, ensuring that they are educationally, socially and medically ready for school.

I have always been a strong supporter of Head Start. After years of stalemate on proposed changes to the program, I was pleased to vote for a reauthorization this May, and again in final passage this November, that includes expanded coverage for low-income children, increased funding for teacher and staff salaries and professional development, and strong accountability measures to better ensure that Head Start funds are used appropriately and efficiently. This bill, HR 1429, was signed into law by the President on December 12, 2007.

I have appreciated working with countless Utah parents, teachers, and administrators on the importance of the program but also on ways to make it stronger and meet the needs of the community. These perspectives and stories have enhanced my understanding of the valuable role Head Start plays in the lives of disadvantaged children. I believe that Head Start is a program with a long-term record of success with enrollment correlating to IQ gains, improved high school graduation rates and higher achievement in writing, vocabulary and social skills.

I applaud my colleague, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for calling attention to this important program.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is said that we should judge a society by how it cares for its young, its old, and those who have difficulty caring for themselves. We have done much in the United States to care for our young citizens, but justice calls on us to do much more.

We know that, from 2000 to 2006, poverty increased by 10.7 percent, leaving 12.8 million children living in poverty. We know that one in three black children and one in four Latino children lives in poverty. We know that almost 12 million children under the age of five participate in some type of regular child care weekly. And we know that research demonstrates that high quality, comprehensive educational care for infants and toddlers can eliminate the achievement gap that exists between middle class and lower-income children.

Together these facts highlight that Federal support for quality care in the earliest years via Head Start and CCDBG is critical to help young children from low-income families arrive at kindergarten ready to learn and obtain a strong foundation for success in life. Despite the importance of early childhood care and education, Federal funding for these programs continues to lose ground. With nearly flat funding over the last several years, Head Start is

serving fewer children than it did in 2002. Despite an increase in the percentage of children under six with only working parents, Federal funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant has been effectively frozen since 2001.

These cuts affect Chicago and Illinois in very real, negative ways. In Chicago, just under 41,000 families with children under 5 live under the poverty line, yet only 17,000 of these children are served by Chicago Head Start. In Illinois, CCDBG served an average of 82,200 children in 2006, which is 20,000 fewer than it did just five years ago.

As policymakers, we should invest in families and children by bringing funding for Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) at least up to the inflation-adjusted levels at which they were funded in 2002. History will judge us harshly if we withhold key resources that we know can provide essential supports for our youngest citizens. During this Week of the Child, I urge my colleagues to reverse this trend and invest in children.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for two essential programs for our children and families—Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) and Head Start.

We know that early investments in our children pay off in the long run. Early childhood education programs increase school readiness and achievement, and improve cognitive and social skills needed for academic success. Investing in Head Start is a good investment, as for every \$1 spent we save nearly \$9. These benefits include less welfare dependency, lower crime rates, and a reduction in grade repetition and special education services.

CCDBG programs also offer a life line for many low income families. By offering subsidies for quality child care parents have broader employment opportunities which result in higher incomes, less turnover, and increased productivity. In addition, these funds are improving the quality, as well as the amount of child care available, to low income families.

In Texas, there are nearly 90,000 children enrolled in Head Start. Current proposed funding levels for Head Start in the FY 2009 Presidential Budget will leave this program in peril. If enacted at the President's requested level, 14,000 fewer children will be able to be enrolled in Head Start in 2009. Last year, Congress made many needed improvements to the Head Start program during reauthorization. Many of these improvements will not be enacted without a significant increase in funding.

CCDBG faces similar prospects if there is not an increase in funding. Wait lists for CCDBG programs continue to rise. In Texas, there are currently 15,000 children on a waitlist for child care assistance. If funding continues at current levels 300,000 fewer children nationally will receive child care assistance by 2010. Without this much needed assistance, parents will be forced to make increasingly difficult choices. Many will be forced into debt, will choose lower-quality child care, or end up back on welfare rolls.

Mr. Speaker, we must increase the resources to these programs. Flat funding for CCDBG and near-flat funding for Head Start over the past decade has left hundreds of thousands of children without needed assistance. Current economic conditions have hit

many of our low income families the hardest. Now, more than ever additional assistance is needed. I strongly encourage an increase in funding for these essential programs.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today, in California, 1.7 million children under age six require childcare because of working parents. Of these, nearly 200,000 are served in local programs that receive money from Child Care and Development Block Grants.

Mr. Speaker, you and I know that in the San Francisco Bay Area, most families rely on a minimum of two incomes just to make ends meet. In a time of rising gas and food prices and uncertain economic prospects, many are forced to take on additional jobs just to keep up.

Yet, the President's budget, for the sixth straight year, does not provide enough just to maintain the current level of services. In fact, the budget for Child Care and Development Block Grants falls \$41 million short and hasn't been adjusted for inflation since 2003.

Mr. Speaker, like most states, California can ill afford to pick up the slack, which in 2009 will total over four and half million dollars. Since 2002, our state has been on the hook for \$52.7 million.

Meanwhile, the president has provided just a 2.1 percent increase for Head Start, a program widely acknowledged as one of the most successful in the federal government. This won't even keep pace with inflation and falls woefully short of what is needed to catch up to the more than \$110 million in funding that California has lost relative to Fiscal Year 2002 funding.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the approximately 130,000 California children registered in Head Start and the benefit that early childhood education provides to our nation, I urge the Congress and President Bush to do all we can to adequately provide for this most important resource.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much to the Speaker, and we yield back the balance of our time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of personal business.

Ms. RICHARDSON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of family business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 5:30 p.m. on April 15 on account of official business with the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COURTNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 845. To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinating followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6045. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-8015] received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6046. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7761] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6047. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Rule Changes of Self-Regulatory Organizations [Release No. 34-57526; File No. S7-06-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ80) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6048. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updating OSHA Standards Based on National Consensus Standards [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0040] (RIN: 1218-AC08) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

6049. A letter from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

6050. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Labeling: Safe Handling Statements: Labeling of Shell Eggs [Docket No. 2004N-0382] (RIN: 0910-ZA23) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Part 121 — The United States Munitions List [Public Notice] received April 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6052. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-019, Contracts with Religious Entities [FAC 2005-23; FAR Case 2006-019; Item II; Docket 2007-0001; Sequence 12] (RIN: 9000-AK66) received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6053. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-030, Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) [FAC 2005-23; FAR Case 2006-030; Item I; Docket 2007-0001, Sequence 9] (RIN: 9000-AK85) received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6054. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-23; Introduction [Docket FAR-2007-0002, Sequence 8] received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6055. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Locations and Hours; Changes in NARA Research Room Hours [Docket NARA-08-0001] (RIN: 3095-AB57) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6056. A letter from the OGE Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Technical Updating Amendments to Executive Branch Financial Disclosure and Standards of Ethical Conduct Regulations (RINs: 3209-AA00 and 3209-AA04) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6057. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Crow Tribe Abandoned Mine Land Reclama-

tion Plan [SATS No. CR-1-FOR; Docket ID OSM-2007-0019] received March 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6058. A letter from the Branch Chief of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Helianthus paradoxus (Pecos Sunflower) [[FWS-R2-ES-2008-0002] [92210-1117-0000-B4] (RIN: 1018-AV02) received April 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6059. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF82) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6060. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Final 2008 and 2009 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XD69) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6061. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF74) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6062. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF90) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6063. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-8032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF94) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6064. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment for Civil Monetary Penalties Under Sections 274A, 274B, and 274C of the Immigration and Nationality Act [EOIR Docket No. 165F; A.G. Order No. 2944-2008] (RIN: 1125-AA39) received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6065. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade & Comm'l Regs. Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — UNITED STATES — JORDAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT [DOCKET NUMBER USCBP-2007-0001 CBP Dec. 08-03] (RIN: 1505-AB75) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6066. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds — Minimum and Multiple Amounts Eligible for STRIPS, Legacy Treasury Direct, and Certification Requirements [Docket No. BPD GSRS 08-01] received March 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6067. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-20) received March 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6068. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Classification of Certain Foreign Entities [TD 9388] (RIN: 1545-BH24) received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6069. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — COORDINATED ISSUE PAPER ALL INDUSTRIES COST SHARING STOCK BASED COMPENSATION UIL 482.11-13 [LMSB-04-0208-005] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6070. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 — Transfer of Intangibles Offshore/ 482 Cost Sharing Buy-in Payment Issue Directive #2 [LMSB Control No. LMSB-4-0308-016 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6071. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue Foreign Tax Credit Generator Directive [LMSB Control No: LMSB-04-0208-003 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6072. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Partnership Audit Techniques Guide — Chapters 1, 2 and 7 [LMSB-04-0208-007] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6073. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factor, Nonconventional Source Fuel Credit, and Reference Price for Calendar Year 2007 [Notice 2008-44] received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amplification of Notice 2006-52 Deduction for Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings [Notice 2008-40] received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6075. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Issuance of Advisory Opinions by OIG — received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6076. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities [CMS-2278-IFC4] (RIN: 0938-AP22) received February 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6077. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Pertaining to Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers — received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

(Omitted from the Record of April 10, 2008)

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3548. A bill to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-580). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Filed on April 14, 2008]

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 281. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections; with an amendment (Rept. 110-581). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5036. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to reimburse certain jurisdictions for the costs of obtaining paper ballot voting systems for the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, to reimburse jurisdictions for the costs incurred in conducting audits or hand counting of the results of the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110-582, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 5715. A bill to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families (Rept. 110-583). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-584). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. Supplemental Report on H.R. 5719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty

standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-584 Pt. 2).

Ms. SUTTON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1102. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-585). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1103. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-586). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 1068. Resolution permitting active duty members of the Armed Forces who are assigned to a Congressional liaison office of the Department of Defense at the House of Representatives to obtain membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives; with amendments (Rept. 110-587). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5493. A bill to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration (Rept. 110-588). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5570. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the sunset in the special immigrant nonminister religious worker visa program; with amendments (Rept. 110-589). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5036 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

(The following action occurred on April 11, 2008)

H.R. 5577. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than May 30, 2008.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. AL

GREEN of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 5781. A bill to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. CANNON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. REHBERG, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and Mr. SALI):

H.R. 5782. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide for reciprocity in regard to the manner in which nonresidents of a State may carry certain concealed firearms in that State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL of California (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LATTI, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mrs. CUBIN):

H.R. 5783. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to make contributions to the Federal Government on their income tax returns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Mr. WYNN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 5784. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5785. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for providing volunteer service to military families through the America Supports You program of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5786. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for

care packages provided for soldiers in combat zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 5787. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Ms. SUTTON):

H. Res. 1104. A resolution congratulating California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, recipients of the 2008 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. INSLEE):

H. Res. 1105. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting Earth Hour 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 1106. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

249. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 24 supporting the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

250. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Kansas, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1621 urging the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to halt the contract process for the Air Force mid-air refueling tanker until Congress and the President have reviewed and approved all the technical, security and economic aspects of the purchase; to the Committee on Armed Services.

251. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alabama, relative to a Resolution encouraging the Congress of the United States to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the jet tanker contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

252. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Kansas, relative to Senate Resolution No. 1831 urging the Congress of the United States to amend the No Child Left Behind Act so that states will be allowed to continue to work toward the goal of closing the achievement gap without overly prescriptive federal rules, unfunded mandates and the coercion of losing federal funds; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

253. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to a Joint Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States amend the Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

254. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 62 supporting H. Res. 121 expressing the sense that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

255. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 19 requesting the Congress of the United States authorize the establishment of a national monument for women in Washington, D.C., to recognize and honor the leadership contributions of America's women; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

256. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 99 memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass the "Clean Railroads Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

257. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28 memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

258. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 memorializing the Congress of the United States to review and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

259. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 22 memorializing the Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to protect and preserve the ability of California wineries, as well as all American wineries, to contribute to the economy of California and the nation by withdrawing the Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Number 77 and Number 78; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 245: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 271: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 351: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 728: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 741: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 943: Mr. GOODE and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 989: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 992: Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1032: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1040: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma and Mr. MCCOUL of Texas.
H.R. 1050: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1092: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1110: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1142: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1148: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1264: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 1279: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1283: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1295: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. RENZI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 1527: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 1553: Mr. BOREN and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1576: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1590: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1600: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1609: Ms. HARMAN, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 1643: Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 1653: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1691: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1738: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1742: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1783: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 1820: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WU, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 1869: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1927: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1929: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2014: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 2088: Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 2167: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2169: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2188: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MOLLOHAN.
H.R. 2236: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2343: Mr. HINCHEY and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2477: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2548: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2676: Mr. FILNER and Mr. WU.
H.R. 2702: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 2706: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2734: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. DREIER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 2738: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2744: Mr. STUPAK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RENZI, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2792: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2818: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2833: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 2905: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 2942: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3001: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3014: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3109: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3175: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 3282: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 3430: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3463: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3543: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3635: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3642: Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 3765: Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 3820: Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. SPACE.
H.R. 3865: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3874: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3960: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 4105: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. JOHN-SON of Georgia, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 4236: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 4244: Mr. PLATTI.
H.R. 4318: Mr. MCCARTHY of California and Mr. HOBSON.
H.R. 4449: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 4790: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4883: Mr. SPACE and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 4884: Mr. SPACE and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 4900: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HELLER.
H.R. 4934: Mr. SIREI.
H.R. 5033: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.R. 5057: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5131: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5161: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 5244: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. MEEK of Florida.

H.R. 5268: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5425: Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 5443: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5466: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 5469: Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 5488: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5496: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5499: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 5510: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5532: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 5534: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 5540: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 5544: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5554: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5561: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 5575: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 5580: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 5583: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5595: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 5598: Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5602: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5609: Mr. ORTIZ.

H.R. 5613: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. WEINER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. TERRY, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5626: Mr. FARR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5656: Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. POE.

H.R. 5660: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5662: Mr. FILER.

H.R. 5668: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 5673: Ms. FOXX and Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.

H.R. 5684: Mr. REYES, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. SALAZAR.

H.R. 5686: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 5689: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5695: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 5696: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 5700: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 5717: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 5719: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 5722: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 5725: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 5731: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 5737: Mr. PORTER.

H.R. 5740: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. OBEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CARTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 5749: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PORTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KIND, and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 5769: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 5770: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 5771: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. J. Res. 12: Mr. SALLI.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 257: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. PLATTS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Con. Res. 318: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 322: Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. BEAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. LINDER.

H. Res. 356: Mr. CONAWAY.

H. Res. 653: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H. Res. 705: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H. Res. 758: Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 820: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 834: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. LOEBACK.

H. Res. 896: Mr. REYES.

H. Res. 937: Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 977: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Res. 987: Mr. DICKS and Ms. GIFFORDS.

H. Res. 1008: Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 1019: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 1022: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 1026: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. MEEK of Florida.

H. Res. 1044: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H. Res. 1048: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. BEAN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. FALOMAVAEGA and Mr. LATTI.

H. Res. 1081: Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 1091: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. KIND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 1093: Ms. WATERS, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CLARKE, and Ms. DELAULO.

H. Res. 1095: Mr. BECERRA, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. STARK, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. BERMAN.

H. Res. 1096: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

SHULER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative FRANK of Massachusetts or a designee to H.R. 2634 the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

229. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the County Commission of Mobile, Alabama, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to consider the needs of the American war fighter, to affirm the selection process of the United States Air Force, and to support the creation of American jobs by moving all deliberate speed to fund and implement the KC-45 tanker project; to the Committee on Armed Services.

230. Also, a petition of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Florida, relative to Resolution No. R-137-08 urging the Florida Legislature to strengthen mortgage fraud laws; to the Committee on Financial Services.

231. Also, a petition of the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2007-131 urging the Congress of the United States to re-enact the Federal Assault Weapons Ban; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

232. Also, a petition of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Florida, relative to Resolution No. R-135-08 urging the Florida Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign into law legislation reinstating a property tax exemption for solar energy systems and other renewable energy systems and to streamline the process for applying for such an exemption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

233. Also, a petition of the City Council of New Orleans, Louisiana, relative to Resolution No. R-08-100 urging the Congress of the United States to appropriate 100% federal share for one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

234. Also, a petition of the City Council of the City of Pittsburgh, PA, relative to Resolution No. 2008-0111 urging the Congress of the United States to act quickly and efficiently in order to renew the Delta Queen's soon to expire exemption from the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

235. Also, a petition of the City Council of Atlanta, Georgia, relative to Resolution No. 08-R-0476 calling upon the Senate of the United States to introduce and pass the the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.